



No. 65,786

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997



ANNE FRANK UNCENSORED

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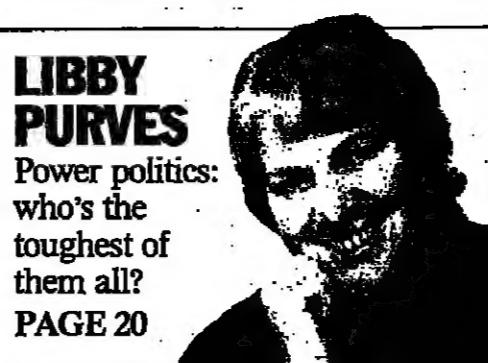
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Rises are reprehensible, says Scott

Soaring cost of civil justice under attack

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



PLANS to increase costs by up to 150 per cent for millions of people who pursue civil disputes in the courts were denounced as "thoroughly objectionable and reprehensible" yesterday by Sir Richard Scott, the head of the country's civil justice system.

The increases, which come into force tomorrow, are part of controversial Government plans to make civil justice pay for itself.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has announced hefty fee rises for all civil court actions — from divorce to debt recovery, rents to suing noisy neighbours — so that he can recoup the £310 million cost of civil justice, including judges' salaries and court buildings.

The cost of a divorce petition, for example, rises from £80 to £150, compared with £40 18 months ago. The cost of lodging trial papers and asking for a date in the county courts — which in the 1980s was free — doubles from £50 last year to £100.

Consumer and legal groups also gave warning that the rises — coupled with the scrapping of fee exemptions for those on income support — would hit the poorest most, and that many low-income households would be unable to pursue their rights.

The plans, the last stage of a four-year policy to make civil justice self-financing, will reap an extra £50 million in court fees and bring the total fee income raised from court users to £310 million — virtually the full cost of running civil courts.

Sir Richard, who as head of the High Court Chancery division is one of the most senior judges in England and Wales, said he had "no doubt" the Lord Chancellor had "no alternative but to increase court fees because of Treasury constraints on his budget".

But there was a danger that people would be deterred from using the courts. Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible.

Without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive." People often had no choice about whether or not they were involved in a civil dispute.

The policy fails to recognise that the civil justice system is like the criminal justice system, the bulwark of a civilised state and the maintenance of order within that state. People can't engage in self-help in a way which would lead to chaos.

Sir Richard also attacked the notion of judges' salaries coming out of fees paid by litigants. It was reminiscent of the last century when the judge "put out his hand and was paid by the litigant."

"Judges are part of the constitutional framework of the state and I don't see any justification for their salaries to be paid for in this way."

Mark Sefton, the policy officer of the county court advisers' group of the Advice Services Alliance, said the changes would hit thousands of the poorest users extremely hard. Debtors could even lose their homes due to being unable to pay the £10 fee needed to return to court to vary an order against them or have a possession order suspended.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said the increases brought civil court fee income "more in line with the costs of the administration of justice".

Vicki Chapman, the policy

officer of the Legal Action Group, criticised the scrapping of the exemption from court fees for those on income support. Fees could be limited in hardship cases, but only in small claims and undefended divorce cases, she said.

The new fees would hit debtors particularly hard. "For the first time they will face substantial costs if they want to apply to the court to vary payment of a debt or have a judgment set aside. Someone paying three or four debts who loses his job and as a result wants to arrange for lower payments to debtors would face court fees or £30 or £40."

The new fees will now cover 92 per cent of the total cost of running the civil courts, including accommodation and judges' salaries, except for the small amount provided by the state in the shape of fee reductions for those who are not well-off. She said the decision to make litigants bear the burden of judges' salaries and accommodation costs had never been debated by Parliament.

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Vicki Chapman, the policy



Mr Major, wearing a tribal turban presented to him, and his wife Norma, trying a dupatta, are greeted at Nandi Khotal yesterday

Majors given view of the Great Game

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
IN THE KHYBER PASS

IT WAS, according to the historian Sir John Kaye, a tragedy whose "complete awfulness was unequalled in the history of the world". John Major yesterday stood at Mitchin Point in the Khyber Pass on Pakistan's northwest frontier looking into Afghanistan and the scene of one of Britain's biggest military failures: the retreat from Kabul in 1842.

It was 155 years to the day since Dr William Brydon of the Army Medical Corps rode his horse into Jalalabad, the only survivor of the 16,500-strong force of British and Indian troops and camp followers who perished through starvation, the cold and at the hands of Afghan tribesmen as they tried to get back to India.

Two and a half years earlier 10,000 Crown troops and 6,000 Indians had marched into Kabul virtually unopposed as the British took action which they hoped could settle the Great Game — the struggle between Tsarist Russia and Britain for mastery in

central Asia, once and for all. They feared the Afghans were getting too close to the Russians and wanted to kill the threat of another invasion through the pass, the gateway to the subcontinent.

In vain did the elderly Duke of Wellington warn that the problems would start when the military success ended. Britain made the mistake of sending many of the troops back to India, leaving a much smaller force with families and other civilians in a cantonment outside Kabul. In November 1841 a mob stormed the home of the British Resident, Sir Alexander Burnes, and killed him.

A deal guaranteeing the occupiers a safe retreat back to the Indian border was never honoured. They were murdered by bandits in vast numbers. By the ninth day only six had survived. Five of them were slaughtered, leaving only Dr Brydon, his sword broken in his last fight, to reach the sanctuary of the Garrison.

Yesterday the preoccupation of Mr Major, another great survivor, was not history but a modern and equally chilling war — the battle against the

drug barons who use the pass and others like it to bring in their lethal stocks of opium from the Afghan poppy fields. The task faced by the anti-narcotics forces, to which Britain contributes training and other assistance, including Customs and Excise officers, appears as uphill as that facing those ill-paid soldiers and families of another era.

Pakistan supplies 70 per cent of the heroin sold in Europe; the drug economy is calculated at £21 billion a year. Up here in this barren, unfriendly terrain the enforcement agencies are fighting a war they know they can never totally win. Drug manufac-

which includes the renowned Khyber Rifles, wanted to know how much of their time was spent on the drugs battle. Major-General Fazal Ghauri told him that he was consumed by it.

Mr Major listened open-mouthed as he told how he had deployed 5,000 of his men in a drugs operation last year which resulted in 17 laboratories, where the opium is turned into heroin, being razed and six tonnes of opium-based products seized. The enforcement men admit that as quickly as those premises are destroyed others will be quickly erected. Of all the bad men in the Khyber perhaps the worst was Haji Ayub.

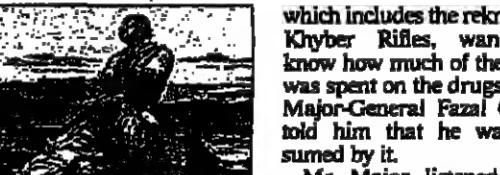
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ture and smuggling is part of the life in the tribal areas of the northwest frontier.

Mr Major, who was briefed on the history of the pass by the chief of the Frontier Corps,

drug barons who use the pass and others like it to bring in their lethal stocks of opium from the Afghan poppy fields. The task faced by the anti-narcotics forces, to which Britain contributes training and other assistance, including Customs and Excise officers, appears as uphill as that facing those ill-paid soldiers and families of another era.

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Lone survivor: Dr Brydon riding back

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Muslims blamed for letter-bomb

Islamic extremists were believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack which injured two security guards at a Saudi-owned Arab newspaper's base in Kensington.

Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the UN building in New York. The paper, *al-Hayat*, has backed the Middle East peace process... Page 4

Millennium show is scaled down

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ORGANISERS yesterday proposed new, scaled-down plans for the troubled Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

In a second attempt to secure £200 million in National Lottery funds, Millennium Central, organiser of the project, reduced the scale of its plans and lopped £120 million off its £700 million budget.

The revised plans show that only ten million people and not 13 million are expected to visit the site.

Several attractions have been axed, including two of the 12 planned pavilions, an auditorium, a pier and covered walkways. The giant dome, which is the bid's centrepiece, will remain.

The revised business plan, which also relies on a commitment to underwrite the scheme, was studied by Virginia Bottomley and other members of the Millennium Commission yesterday. They provisionally approved it and privately agreed that £200

Live lobsters plunge stores into hot water

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

COMING soon to a supermarket near you: live lobster, fresh from the tank, ready to be popped into a paper bag and taken home to be boiled for supper.

But beware — lobsters may not be the only red-faced creatures capable of administering a nasty nip at the checkout. As stores plan to keep DIY dinners — popular in the UK and America — angry animal welfare activists are preparing for a fight.

In the perennial quest for new luxury foods the more upmarket supermarkets are studying plans to keep live lobsters in store tanks. Waitrose, one supermarket understood to be considering the move, would not comment last night.

But New England Lobsters International Ltd, one of the biggest Canadian lobster importers to Britain, agreed moves were afoot at selected stores. "It's a discussion we have been having with them

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كذا من الأصل

Unlikely, but is there another, wilder, side to Sir George?

BETTY BOOTHROYD has the most marvellous tan. Vying only with that of Harry Greenway (C. Ealing N) in its nut-brown splendour (though with Mr Greenway the nut quality is more than skin-deep) the tan defies all assumptions.

Surely duty must tie Madam Speaker to her Commons apartment throughout the holiday season; and Greenway is a famously hard-working constituency MP. Throughout the winter chill two day-long shafts of UV-A-rich sunlight must have lit the

Speaker's House and Ealing. Observing MPs on their first day back, this sketchwriter found it hard to concentrate on serious matters. The topic was Transport. John Bowis, the junior minister, brought important news on Responsible Cycling — but something else troubled this sketch. Fellow minister John Watkinson had the latest on the Northfleet bypass — but still I was distracted.

How shall we put this? At a new year party, I was told by a usually reliable source that there was a Conservative MP

who has had his navel pierced and wears a discreet gold ring under his bespoke cotton shirts, just above the belt line. With so much salacious gossip in the air about other Tory backbenchers, it has proved hard to banish this allegation from one's thoughts.

Yesterday it was impossible. As Secretary of State Sir George Young expatiated with his habitual gloomy rationality on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the approaches to Milford Haven Harbour,

one even wondered whether it could be him. Could there be another, wilder, side to Sir George? Highly unlikely.

Next up was Labour's Clive Soley (Hammersmith), ever-earnest, anxious yesterday about the risks involved in his own hobby, cycling. "When I cycle," he told the ever-helpful Mr Bowis, "I feel like a by-election waiting to

happen." Bowis, a thinking-man's Mr Blobby, was reassuring. As he explained his new "cycle-safe" campaign I scanned the area above his belt for the slightest bump — but in vain.

John Marshall (C. Hendon S) rose to his feet. For all the years he has been in Parliament, the amazingly self-confident Mr Marshall has

retained the knack of engendering anew, with each new dawn, the expectation that he might be about to say something interesting. But he never does. Red braces — perhaps. A navel ring? Never.

But yesterday Mr Marshall got about as interesting as he can get, striking panic into the hearts of all who use the London Underground's Northern Line, when he announced he had driven one of the new trains. We heard the sound of six hundred season tickets being shredded. A man who

displays a near-pathological inability to stop at the end of his Question can hardly be trusted to stop at the end of the Northern Line, or intermediate stations.

When Questions were over, Miss Boothroyd informed MPs that in future the Commons' "Crown Portcullis" emblem was not to be used in circumstances which demeaned "the dignity of the House". No tattoos then, we mused. My brain still in turmoil about the navel ring, I thought I saw a Tory backbencher slip his hand nervously over his left buttock.

Lottery grant to sex change group vexes Bottomley

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LOTTERY grant to a charity working with transsexuals and transvestites triggered fresh clashes between Virginia Bottomley and the National Lottery Charities Board yesterday.

Timothy Hornsby, the board's chief executive, said that the £33,700 award to the Gender Trust, which provides counselling for transsexuals, was "exactly the sort of grant the Board should be giving".

"The Trust reaches out to people who either feel trapped in the wrong body and want surgical intervention, or those who don't want to go under the surgeon's knife but want to dress up. It is the sort of thing you can have a snigger about, but this is part of the reality of the darker corners of life out there," Mr Hornsby said.

But the Heritage Secretary is understood to be "extremely upset". She has previously warned the lottery grant-giving bodies that the public would stop buying tickets if they continued to give money to controversial minority groups. "It is for the Charities Board to explain and account for its action in areas which may not attract widespread public endorsement," she said.

Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Twickenham and a member of the National Heritage Select Committee, said: "My own preference is that causes like the Gender Trust should not be financed with National Lottery money because they are rather controversial and would be better funded by the NHS."

Valerie Riches, director of Family & Youth Concern, which campaigns for traditional family values, said the



Tony Blair, the Labour leader, talking to Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, at the House of Commons yesterday. John Prescott, Mr Blair's deputy, who also met Mr Patten, leaves for the colony and Peking today

Clarke adviser had child-porn videos

By ADRIAN LEE

AN ADVISER to Kenneth Clarke at the Treasury was yesterday ordered to undergo counselling after child pornography was discovered at his home. Peter Hayden, 42, a civil servant, whose role involved briefing the Chancellor and other ministers, was told that only his remorse and previous good character saved him from jail.

He has been suspended from his post in the Treasury's International Finance Directorate since the police raid. Brent magistrates in north London were told that three of the 110 videos seized after a tip-off in May last year featured children. Some of those involved were aged 13.

Scanting Hayden, of Kilburn, north London, to 18 months' probation, including the counselling course, Neil McKittrick, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "Possession of indecent videos of children under 16 is conduct rightly thinking members of the public find repulsive and nauseating and this behaviour will not be tolerated. People who buy videos of a paedophile nature from sex shops contribute to the indirect exploitation of children involved."

Hayden admitted three counts of possessing indecent photographs of children under the age of 16. But Angus Hamilton, for Hayden, said his client had no idea the videos contained scenes of under-age sex. The videos had been bought from sex shops in Soho.

months' probation, including the counselling course, Neil McKittrick, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "Possession of indecent videos of children under 16 is conduct rightly thinking members of the public find repulsive and nauseating and this behaviour will not be tolerated. People who buy videos of a paedophile nature from sex shops contribute to the indirect exploitation of children involved."

Many computer systems cannot recognise the new century because they rely on the last two digits to signify the date. When the millennium arrives, they will theoretically assume it is the year 1900.

Among the initiatives being developed by Derek Foster, Shadow Public Services Minister, are crack squads of private troubleshooters to help companies with difficulties.

It is another attempt by Labour to portray itself as the party most committed to technological change and fit to lead the country into the next century. Tony Blair has already pledged a Labour Government to work with British Telecom and the cable companies to link up every school, college and library to the Internet, to develop the University for Industry, and to develop the concept of computer libraries.

Mr Foster is to outline the millennium strategy today at a technology seminar organised by the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union.

He will not promise huge amounts of new money, but says that Labour will use existing cash more coherently, and strengthen the role of the advisory agency Taskforce 2000.

Labour zero option for computer crisis

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

LABOUR is to pledge more help for business and public services to cope with the millennium computer crisis being caused by the date change in 2000.

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CONNECTIONS

SUNALLIANCE

Mayhew resists calls to exclude fringe loyalists

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW resisted pressure yesterday to expel the fringe loyalist parties from the multi-party talks at Stormont after recent bomb attacks by loyalist terrorists.

As the talks resumed after the Christmas recess, the Northern Ireland Secretary said he did not believe that the Combined Loyalist Military Command had breached its ceasefire. His refusal to blame the loyalist command was mocked by Bob McCartney, the United Kingdom Unionist MP for North Down.

Speaking outside the talks venue, he said: "Do you think it was the tooth fairy that placed the bombs?" Referring

to so-called "punishment beatings", he added: "Do you think it was a band of tooth fairies that is breaking legs and crucifying people throughout Northern Ireland?"

Sir Patrick's praise for the Loyalist leadership followed calls from the Democratic Unionists and the UKUP for the parties with links to the terrorists to be expelled from the talks after two car bomb attacks over Christmas.

The terrorist Ulster Defence Association is widely believed to have planted the bombs under the cars of republican leaders in Belfast and London, although a group has claimed responsibility. Ronnie

Flanagan, the Chief Constable of the RUC, yesterday blamed "loyalist extremists" for planting the bombs although he stopped short of naming any terrorist organisation.

Sir Patrick condemned the bomb attacks, but praised the loyalist command for maintaining its ceasefire. Ministers hope that the failure to claim responsibility for the bombs means that the operations were not sanctioned by the loyalist leadership.

Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Defence Association, the UDA's political wing, insisted yesterday that the ceasefire was still in place.

Major watches drugs war

Continued from page 1

a chieftain of the Afzidi tribe, who has been called the biggest drug baron in Pakistan. Mr Major was driven past Haji Ayub's fortress, which is about the size of Windsor Castle. He mysteriously gave himself up in Dubai in 1995 and is in prison in the United States.

Mr Major was planning a walkabout yesterday at the pass's high point of Landi Kotal, where the Khyber Rifles are also based. The tribesmen had been asked to hand in the guns they all carry for the day. Thousands of them had come in from the hills and lined the village as Mr Major drove through.

He was not to stop there, it was a security man's nightmare. No one could be sure who had guns. His staff were

told of how the tribesmen give their sons Kalashnikov rifles as a present when they reach the age of 13.

But Mr Major did visit Landi Kotal market centre. Mr Major and Norma were treated to a dazzling display by the young martial dancers of the Khyber Rifles. It was a colourful but bellicose experience as the dancers, who double up as waiters in the mess, fired off their Belgian FN rifles into the air and waved Scimitars. The Prime Minister was following in the path of some famous users of the pass - Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Darius of Persia, Churchill served in the area as a young cavalry officer: even Margaret Thatcher went there in 1981.

As he flew back by helicopter to Islamabad on the penultimate day of his subcontinent tour Mr Major must have reflected on the awesome task that faces the anti-drugs agencies near a country where poppy growing is the lifeline for so many and at a frontier which is so lawless that a total of 100,000 soldiers try to police it.

After the military disaster a century and a half ago the Great Game was soon revived when the British went back to Kabul and was never really played out for another 70 years. The drugs will almost certainly go on for just as long. □ Imran Khan, former Test cricketer and contender for the prime ministership of Pakistan, failed to turn up for a reception hosted by Mr and Mrs Major at the British High Commission in Islamabad last night.

Policeman supplied Ecstasy

A policeman, 32, yesterday admitted supplying Ecstasy. At Gloucester Crown Court, PC Steven Hunt of Maple Close, Hardwicke, Gloucester, admitted two charges of supplying MDMA — the abbreviated chemical name of the drug — to Simon Marcer on October 20, 1995. He was remanded on bail for a pre-sentence report to be prepared and his case was adjourned for three to four weeks. He denied a further charge of dishonestly handling a stolen video recorder belonging to Radio Rentals.

Agency head is bound over

The head of a multimillion-pound Government-backed enterprise agency was yesterday bound over to keep the peace after a dispute in the street with a woman magistrate, Sefton Harris, 43, of Gloucester, manager of the Barton and Tredworth Enterprise Centre, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being found not guilty by Cheltenham magistrates of using threatening words and behaviour to Carol Francis on September 6. She had denied the charge.

Policeman's grave attacked

The grave of a policeman shot dead by the IRA last summer has been vandalised for the second time in a week. Police in the Irish Republic said yesterday that the headstone on the grave of Jerry McCabe, 52, in Mount St Oliver cemetery in Limerick was smeared and pushed over on Saturday night. Gardai said they were keeping an open mind on the motive for the attack, although they thought it unlikely to be the work of the IRA. The headstone was dislodged in a similar attack the previous weekend.

Australian wins poetry prize

The Australian Les Murray has won the 1996 T. S. Eliot Prize for the year's best collection of new poetry. Mr Murray, who was born in 1938, studied at Sydney University and became a full-time poet in 1971. His volume, *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, was selected for the £5,000 prize, which was presented last night by Eliot's widow Valerie. The poet Andrew Motion, the chairman of the judges, said: "He is a poet of exceptional range, energy and ambition."

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The last time I felt that shaken I was in a war zone' says journalist caught in the middle

Publicist creates stir by lunging at MP on chatshow

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

MAX CLIFFORD, the publicist who has pledged a personal campaign to bring down the Government, lunged at a Tory MP and swore at him during a row on a television chatshow yesterday.

Chaos broke out at the Kilroy studios moments before the programme was supposed to go on air after Mr Clifford became embroiled in an argument with Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North.

Mr Clifford, a public relations consultant to many tabloid celebrities, was defending his latest client, Paul Stone, who claims to have had an affair with Jerry Hayes, the Tory MP for Harlow, when a teenager and under the then age of homosexual consent.

Members of the audience said that Mr Clifford strode out of the guest room ten minutes before the programme and glared at Mr Gale, who is chairman of the backbench media committee and takes a strong line on intrusion into privacy.

When Mr Gale cracked a joke, Mr Clifford allegedly spat at him and tried to shove the MP, who was sitting opposite him. As Mr Clifford

lunged for Mr Gale, his microphone got caught and instead he caught Annabel Heseltine, the journalist and daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Derek Hatton, the former leader of Liverpool City Council, ran over to calm Mr Clifford and said: "If you want to scrap, scrap with me. You know you don't." Boris Johnson, the journalist and prospective Tory candidate, also tried to calm Mr Clifford, along with William Garnett, a Liberal lawyer who is the brother of Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP for Barking, got water knocked over her in the melee.

Mr Clifford was clearly agitated at being faced with a largely hostile audience made up of MPs, journalists and other public relations advisers who later accused him of being a "parasite" and a "liar" in the debate about sleaze.

Mr Gale said that Mr Clifford's behaviour had been disgraceful: "He hurried towards me and stuck his nose about three millimetres from mine. He started muttering. It was out to get me," he said.

Mr Heseltine, 33, added: "I

happened or whose arm or body engaged with her," a spokesman said. "She seemed to be nursing an injury to her chest or arm."

Mr Clifford denied coming into contact with Miss Heseltine. A BBC spokesman said the incident had been confused, making it hard to know how Miss Heseltine had come to be jostled. "Nobody tried to hit me."

"I didn't realise quite how

shocked I was by the incident until later. I was breathing very fast. I was shaking, my hands were shaking. Quite frankly, the last time that happened I was in a war zone. I remember feeling a little bit scared, wondering what would happen during the show, would there be someone there to hold him back if it happened again?"

Ms Heseltine, 33, added: "I

feel that he is — I don't want to

say a scumbag — but he is a very unpleasant man, a very unpleasant man. What he does is extremely exploitative. He corrupts situations entirely to suit himself."

For the rest of the show Mr Clifford was obviously seeking as he sparred with Mr Gale, who has been a persistent critic of the PR man.

Mr Clifford prides himself

on being a caring family man

who is devoted to his severely

disabled daughter and hates the Government because it does not "look after the long-term ill and disadvantaged". He is a regular church-goer. His former clients are less clear-cut. They include O.J. Simpson, cleared of murdering his wife and her friend; and Divine Brown, the prostitute at the centre of the Hugh Grant scandal. Another of his proteges is Mandy Allwood, the woman who was pregnant with octuplets, who came under a barrage of abuse for selling her story to the tabloids.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, the former Labour MP and host,

only had six minutes to defuse the situation before the programme went on air. Even half way through the programme, Mr Clifford was still calling Mr Gale "a prat".

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who has

had convicted criminals and their victims on the same programme, said it had been one of the most "hair-raising" programmes. "We've done about 1,500 live shows and always expect the unexpected. But this was a very unusual one," he said.

Kathy Bailey, of Bradford, who was in the audience, said:

"I was talking to my son Jason

and the next thing I knew Max Clifford had ripped off his microphone and stormed towards Roger Gale. Derek Hatton held him back. My heart was pounding and I thought the show was going to be cancelled. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Later during the pro-

gramme Mr James Couchman, Conservative MP for Gillingham, said: "You are prepared to destroy a man and his family on the basis of allegations from someone who alleges he had some sort of relationship with Mr Hayes. I find it absolutely despicable."

One of Mr Hayes's constit-

uents also defended him say-

ing: "Jerry Hayes does his job. What do you do for the people of Harlow, you're nothing but a parasite. Jerry Hayes is a good MP. Who elected you?"

Mr Clifford defended his job

saying: "Politicians hide behind an image and it is extremely important to see what they really are. These people are making decisions effecting our daily lives. He is part of the party of family values. Maybe his wife doesn't want to know but I happen to think the British public have a right to know about these people in power."



Max Clifford, left; Annabel Heseltine, who got caught in the studio mêlée; and Roger Gale, who said the behaviour was disgraceful



Derek Hatton intervenes, left, after the scuffle that left Annabel Heseltine shocked when Roger Gale was confronted by Max Clifford, who wants to bring down the Tories



Harrods manageress convicted

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A HARRODS manageress who helped to plunder more than £200,000 from the credit card accounts of wealthy customers was behind bars yesterday. Elizabeth John's betrayal of trust, which "torched" the Knightsbridge store and prompted an in-depth security review, left one shopper with a £120,000 bill after only three months.

But Al Sharif Al Hussein never noticed all the itemised extras on his Gold Mastercard statements. Harrow Crown Court in north London was told it was not until police investigated the 26-month-long swindle that he learned he had unwittingly paid for numerous illicit spending sprees.

John, 31, was convicted of one count of conspiracy to defraud between February 1993 and May 1995. She was remanded in custody for sentence on February 7.

Her brother, Koshy, 29, who admitted the charge, also had his bail withdrawn. He will be sentenced with her and for a counterfeit dollars swindle he was convicted of last year.

Drowning son pushed lifejacket to father

BY LERINE SMITH

A TEENAGER who drowned with his young brother when their boat overturned in the Bristol Channel refused a lifejacket, pushing it instead to his father.

Paul Cyster, 18, and his brother David, 10, were on their first angling trip with their father, Stephen, 43, and his friend Dave Sperling, 59, when they tried to anchor for a last half-hour's fishing before heading home on Sunday. The anchor snagged in submerged rocks and the rapidly rising tide, which has the second highest range in the world, tipped the boat over 100 yards from the shore, near Portishead pier.

The two men were rescued by a passing boat after drifting for 30 minutes in the darkness. Mr Cyster was detained in hospital but Mr Sperling, a builder, was released after treatment for hypothermia.

Mr Sperling added: "Little David had been nagging his dad for weeks to go on his first fishing trip. He was so excited when he caught the only fish of the day."

He said there was not even time to cut the rope. "We didn't have our lifejackets on. It just

all happened so fast. I tried to grab little David's legs as the boat went over but he was stuck in the cabin and I couldn't free him," he said.

The two men kept blacking out in the cold water. "We were both on the way out. I was swearing at Steve, calling him every name under the sun to stop him losing consciousness. He was delirious. All I can surmise is that Paul tried to swim to shore which was about 100 metres away. If it had been in the summer and it had not been so cold, he might have made it."

Rescuers admitted yesterday any hopes of finding the two boys alive were slim. Helicopters, six lifeboats and local boats searched the area on Sunday and the hunt resumed at first light yesterday with a team scouring both shores and police divers trying to locate the wreck.

Coastguards said visibility was good but the cold water, around 4C, meant the boys would be unlikely to survive for more than three hours. They believed they were swept away by strong currents.

Rector stole from his parishioners

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RECTOR stole thousands of pounds paid by parishioners for weddings and funerals and made up heart-breaking stories about local children to get money from a church fund.

Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday that the Rev John Thompson also cheated an insurance company by claiming his 12th-century church, St Olave in Friarwell, Oxfordshire, had been burgled, and stole money from a school of which he was a trustee.

Peter Nightingale, said that the prosecution, said that the Birchington Convalescent Fund paid out £2,000 over 15 months for holidays for children after Thompson sent it four bogus letters. They included one in which he told of a father who had died in a fall as he tried to rescue his

children while climbing in the Lake District. Another asked for money for two children who were seriously injured when a caravan plunged off a cliff in France, killing their father.

Mr Nightingale said that on each occasion the charity sent cheques to Thompson to help towards the cost of holidays for the children.

Mr Nightingale said: "This defendant was a successful, effective liar with a fertile imagination. None of these people were parishioners, relatives or even known to Mr Thompson. They were all completely fabricated."

No one else had benefited.

The court was told that he cheated the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company into paying him out £1,200 after claiming that burglars had broken into his church. The "stolen" items were later found at his home.

Thompson, 52 and a vicar for 20 years, had been the rector serving three parishes in east Oxfordshire — Friarwell,

Southern and Ardley with Fawcroft — for ten years. Thompson admitted four charges of obtaining property by deception and asked for two thefts, a charge of fraud involving the insurance company and an offence of attempting to obtain property by deception to be considered. He was ordered to do 100 hours community service, placed on probation for two years and ordered to pay back the £2,000 from the convalescent fund.

Jonathan Coode, for Thompson, said he was undergoing psychiatric help after a breakdown and that there was no substance to the claims that he was the only one to benefit. "There seems to be a witch hunt going on."

"He has resigned from his parish but will hopefully not be defrocked. His working life is effectively over, which is the greatest punishment."

Thompson: resigned from his parish

church. The "stolen" items were later found at his home.

Thompson, 52 and a vicar for 20 years, had been the rector serving three parishes in east Oxfordshire — Friarwell,

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Islamic extremists blamed after terror campaign spreads from America to Britain

Two wounded as letter bombers aim for London target

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

ISLAMIC extremists were last night believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack that injured two security guards at London-based moderate Arab newspaper. Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the United Nations building in New York.

The Saudi-owned *al-Hayat* has voiced support for the Middle East peace process and recently spoke out against extremism. Two weeks ago, its

Washington bureau received explosives hidden inside musical Christmas cards. Identical bombs were sent to the parole office of the US prison holding one of the Arab terrorists who carried out the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Last night Britain's anti-terrorist police were understood to be in contact with FBI officers investigating the American attacks. The Saudi ambassador to London, Dr

Ghazi Alqasabi, said: "Those who cannot face ideas resort to bombs. This is a criminal, cowardly act which illustrates the mentality of the perpetrators." *Al-Hayat*, a Arabic-language daily with 165,000 sales worldwide, is owned by the Saudi Prince Khalid Bin Sultan. More than 90 per cent of the 100 staff working at the Kensington Centre office in Hammersmith are Lebanese.

The editor, Jihad Khazen, said he believed the bombs were the same type as those received two weeks ago, which bore stamps and postmarks from Alexandria, Egypt. Security was tightened after the Washington attack, with a scanning machine installed in the basement post room.

One security guard, Barry Roche, 46, from Paddington, suffered serious injuries to the head and abdomen in yesterday's blast. Doctors at New Charing Cross Hospital last night feared that he might lose an eye. A second guard, Andy McKenzie, 35, from Wimbledon, suffered burst eardrums and shock but was released from hospital.

The Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist squad and bomb disposal units evacuated the building in Hammersmith

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

LONDON has seen violence involving the complex politics of the Middle East since 1977, when a former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a diplomat were shot dead.

Since then, nearly 30 people have been killed in attacks as political developments in the Middle East have been played out in the capital. A former prime minister of Libya was shot down in 1978. The London representative of the PLO was killed a few months later. In 1980, four gunmen and two hostages were killed in siege of the Iranian Embassy. In 1982 the Israeli ambassador to Britain was crippled by a gunman. Two years later, WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot from inside the Libyan People's Bureau. In 1995, a group of Palestinians left car bombs outside the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity, and a Libyan dissident was stabbed to death.

The tolerant and cosmopolitan capital has attracted dissidents — and their persecutors. Attacks on newspapers and journalists are not new. In 1987, a Palestinian cartoonist was killed.



Centre of the news: a journalist from the newspaper *al-Hayat* talks to police after the bombing yesterday

Road shortly after the first blast at 9.15am. They sealed off roads and carried out controlled explosions on three suspicious packages before sending material to forensic laboratories for closer examination.

A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to confirm reports that the device contained Semtex, and that the guard escaped with his life only because the detonator exploded.

Mr Khazen said: "We don't know if the guard opened it or

what happened. It made a noise going through the machine, he carried it in his hands and it blew up."

Police were last night seeking links with the US attacks on January 3 in which *al-Hayat*'s Washington bureau received four bombs, with a fifth discovered at the sorting bureau before it was delivered.

All were in plain white envelopes measuring 5½ins by 6½ins. They were defused safely after the first was opened by the paper's Washington correspondent Dana Sandarus, who became suspicious after seeing the Egyptian stamps and called police when he noticed wiring and plastic explosives inside.

Three others were sent to the parole officer at Fort Leavenworth Federal Prison in Kansas, where Mohammed Salameh is serving a life sentence for the World Trade Centre bombing in which six people died and 1,000 were injured. The prison also holds the blind Egyptian cleric

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, ringleader of a Middle Eastern group, who was sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap politicians.

Mr Khazen said: "We're the only Arab newspaper to interview all the people convicted of the World Trade Centre bombing, including Salameh. We have also spoken to Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman twice, and we have had absolutely no complaints from any of the groups."

Parent to stand by school sex allegation

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MOTHER who made allegations of sexual impropriety against a senior teacher at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset stood by her account last night despite threats of legal action.

Two teachers were cleared last week after a three-month police inquiry. John Baxter, the headmaster, said yesterday that the allegations had been investigated thoroughly when they first came to light more than a year ago.

But Annie Caldicott-Bull, whose two daughters left the school in July, claimed she had seen one of the teachers cuddling a young girl and that her ten-year-old daughter Minty had also had her bottom pinched in horseplay with the same member of staff.

Mrs Caldicott-Bull had complained originally when her 12-year-old daughter Candida told her she could not concentrate on her piano practice because the teacher had another girl on his knee, kissing and cuddling him. "I expected to be thanked for bringing it to the school's attention but instead I got an aggressive response and now, even after the girls have left, the threat of legal action."

Mr Baxter said the school had received hundreds of expressions of support. "I am absolutely certain and totally confident of the good care and welfare of all the children in my school."

Mr Baxter said the school was still waiting for a full police report, but it had been assured that the allegations had "no substance".

A statement from the school said the investigation arose from complaints made by two parents concerning children other than their own. One parent had since removed her children, while the other had one child still at the school.

"The children who were the focus of the inquiry are also still happily in the school and they and their parents have always been fully supportive of the care and attention the school provides."

Another parent, who declined to be named, said she was not satisfied and would be removing her daughter at the end of the school year.

Hard-hitting and reliable daily refuses to be intimidated

THE SPATE of letter bombs sent to the offices of the Arabic-language daily *al-Hayat* in London, New York and Riyadh over the past two weeks suggests a co-ordinated terror campaign by Islamic radicals against the Arab world's leading newspaper.

Edited and published in London, the paper, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists and those who have opposed its strong line against terrorism and oppression.

Yesterday it emerged that an employee of the paper's office in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, also received a letter bomb on January 4. Alerted by the Egyptian stamps, he called the police, who discovered

that it contained explosives. The paper is owned by Prince Khalid bin Sultan, the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the commander of the Saudi forces during the Gulf War. His father is the country's powerful Defence Minister.

With a circulation of 165,000, *al-Hayat* is the successor to a long-standing Beirut newspaper forced out of the country during the Lebanese civil war. Still largely staffed by Lebanese, it is considered one of the most hard-hitting and reliable Arabic-language dailies, with correspondents in most of the Arab world. It publishes much news that is censored by local newspapers, and takes full advantage

The Arabic-language newspaper *al-Hayat*, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists. Michael Binyon writes

tage of the press freedom and Arabic language news sources and outlets in London.

Edited by Jihad al-Khazen, the paper is transmitted by satellite to printing presses around the Arab world and is considered one of the most authoritative because of its relatively unbiased coverage. Mr al-Khazen frequently receives telephone threats from the Arab world and attempts by governments to prevent publication of embarrassing

news, but he says he will not be intimidated. "I hope and pray there will be no more attacks. We will not change. We will maintain our moderate position on Arab and international affairs," he said.

Terrorist experts pointed to Egyptian Islamic radicals as being the most likely perpetrators. Activists in Egypt have promised revenge for the imprisonment of Sheikh Omar Abd el Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric described as the ring-leader

of the group sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap American politicians. Muhammed Salameh is serving a life sentence in America for his role in the plot.

Speculation also focused on groups that have waged political and terrorist campaigns against Saudi Arabia. Among these are the shadowy group responsible for the bombs in Riyadh and Dhahran last year that killed 25 people, including 19 American soldiers in the second blast. Islamist enemies of the House of Saud also include Osama bin Laden, a rich Saudi exile who has funded some of the most radical anti-Western terrorist groups and who is now believed to

be living in Afghanistan.

Dr Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident exile in London who recently announced that he was bankrupt, said after the first Washington bomb that the list of suspects could not exclude Islamists, and cited their dislike of Mr al-Khazen in particular for his "insolence". He said the paper's offices in Cairo and London would be an obvious target.

al-Hayat has been used by the radical Algeria Armed Islamic Group (GIA) to claim responsibility by fax for terrorist bombings and assassinations. But suggestions that the letter bombs could be connected to the Algerian conflict were regarded as unlikely.

Boy wins fight for home after hate campaign

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 11 won the legal right to be rehoused yesterday after the High Court was told that he and his family had been the victims of a hate campaign on the inner-city estate where they live.

The court was told that Simon Bradford had been constantly bullied and taunted on his way to school by neighbours on the estate because his mother was crippled by arthritis and epilepsy. Richard Gordon QC, appearing for Simon, said the words "white trash" had been daubed on the front door of the family's two-bedroom, first-floor flat.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Kay described how the whole family faced a daily ordeal "of very considerable harassment" and Simon's mother had been mugged on three occasions. He said Simon's head teacher described him as "a sad little boy".

"The family has been harassed by abusive and hoax telephone calls," he said. "This campaign of hatred has culminated in attempted arson on their home and the daubing of phlegm and faeces over the door of their flat and their car."

In its landmark judgment, the court ruled that the Tower Hamlets Council in east London had a legal duty to find a safer home for the boy, who had helped to look after his severely crippled mother since he was four. The case will set an important precedent for hundreds of other children in need or who are responsible for the care of older relatives.

The Bradfords first made an urgent application for a housing transfer in July 1995, but the council assessed that they had no points for medical priority so they were placed on the general housing list.

The court heard that Simon suffered from behavioural problems and had missed a large part of his schooling, partly because he had assisted his unemployed father Raymond, 46, in caring for his

Family blames beds crisis for woman's death

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

A WOMAN aged 69 died after a London hospital cancelled her heart bypass operation four times because of a lack of intensive care beds over the Christmas holiday.

The family of Queenie Harrild said yesterday that others would suffer a similar fate unless the Government provided the health service with more resources.

Amid growing attempts by the Opposition to put the NHS crisis back on top of the political agenda, both Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs demanded that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, come to the Commons to make a statement.

Mrs Harrild, from Downham Market, was admitted to Guy's Hospital on December 13. Her family claimed that she was prepared for operations on December 23 and 24, and January 2 and 3 but each time it was cancelled. She died of a heart attack on January 4, two days before the fifth scheduled date for her operation.

Her son, David Harrild, told a press conference in Westminster that if she had not had her hopes lifted and then dashed four times, she would still be alive. Mr Harrild, 31, a music shop manager, said: "We feel it is mental cruelty to the patients to have to go through this torture of constant build-ups."

□ The £10,000 grant received by Alice Oswald (arrested January 10) came from the Arts Foundation and not as reported, the Arts Council.

□ An obituary yesterday wrongly described Lord Borthwick as the 23rd Earl of Borthwick; he was in fact the 23rd Baron.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

May 1997
Parental
Stand by
School
allegations

Queen to share golden wedding with 4,000 couples

By ALAN HAMILTON



The royal couple by Snowdon, a portrait released today

Prince joins school homework campaign

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday backed the campaign for more rigorous school homework when he spoke to educationists at a conference in Edinburgh organised by his charity The Prince's Trust.

The journey north of the Border made the Prince the first member of the Royal Family to visit Scotland since the televised debate on the monarchy last week in which 52 per cent of Scots voted in a phone-in poll to scrap the monarchy, with only 44 per cent in favour.

Speaking on the importance of homework for pupils, a subject taken up at the weekend by Tony Blair, the Prince told his audience: "The uncomfortable truth is that too many of our young people end up under-achieving at school... Too many of them do not learn the joys of learning... The lost potential for society as a whole is depressingly large."

The Prince's Trust has been involved in study support for five years. There are more than 300 study support centres across the country, which include after-school homework clubs, home

study support group in which senior pupils help to tutor younger pupils. She urged teachers to give more responsibility to their pupils. "You are all control freaks," she told her audience. "How can you expect to produce responsible pupils if you don't give them a bit of responsibility?"

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, will announce the Government's homework plans this morning.

After the monarchy debate Buckingham Palace officials have let it be known that an initiative was under way to recapture Scottish hearts. But the views of a small crowd that had gathered in the Royal Mile by the end of the Prince's visit were mixed.

George McLeod, 71, said: "I think it is good to see Prince Charles here because it shows he has an interest in Scotland. I don't think it's fair to say at the moment if he would be a good King. He's obviously done a few bad things but then haven't we all?"

Gordon Muir, 46, said: "As a person, I think Prince Charles is all right... But on the monarchy, I really have to say I don't want them."



Diana, Princess of Wales, with flowers presented to her on arrival in Luanda

those would have died or divorced. The royal couple married in Westminster Abbey on November 20, at the height of postwar austerity, but will hold their garden party on the palace lawn on July 15, when the weather is more likely to favour an outdoor event.

Because no central record exists of couples who have survived half a century together, the Palace has had to resort to the unregal approach of trawling bids. But it is no worse than the system for sending congratulatory telegrams to centenarians: the Queen has to be told of an approaching 100th birthday before she can send her message.

Couples who wish to take iced coffee and cucumber sandwiches at the Palace are being asked to register with the office of the Lord Lieutenant of the county in which

they live. The Palace has promised that the eventual distribution of invitations will be on a pro rata basis in line with the number of applications received from each county.

Ballots will be held locally "to achieve the fairest possible spread throughout the country". Eligibility is limited to couples of British nationality. Nationals of other Commonwealth countries that have the Queen as head of state — as of this year, as opposed to 1947 when the marriage took place — should apply through their High Commission in London, the Palace said.

Applicants are asked to make contact by February 14 and to send copies of their marriage certificates as proof. Children and grandchildren are not invited, but may be allowed if needed as carers.

"It was thought this would be an ideal way of enabling the Queen and the Duke to share this personal anniversary with others who equally share this landmark during 1997," the Palace said. "The garden party will give the Queen and the Duke an opportunity to meet people from a wide range of life experiences."

Those invited, like guests at any royal garden party, will have to pay their own way to London. They will not have to afford morning dress; a lounge suit will do for the men, but no lady has yet attended a royal garden party without incurring the expense of a hat.

"Most ladies choose to wear a hat, though it isn't absolutely mandatory," the Palace added. "If people want to wear tails it is a matter for them."

The afternoon in the Queen's private grounds, with tea served

after the royal couple walk through the crowds, is likely to prove the most memorable event of the year for most of those attending.

Ten days before the garden party, three times as many people are expected to attend another celebration, the independently organised Royal Pageant of the Horse. Designed to reflect the royal couple's best-known shared interest, it is described as the largest equestrian event ever held in Britain.

About 25,000 people will pay £40 or more to watch more than 1,200 horses and carriages in a spectacular display at Windsor Great Park.

Other commemorations include a crown coin (with a face value of 25p but costing £5) to be struck by the Royal Mint, and Britain's first gold stamps, to be sold from April 21, the Queen's 71st birthday.

Princess wastes no time after arrival in Angola

By ALAN HAMILTON

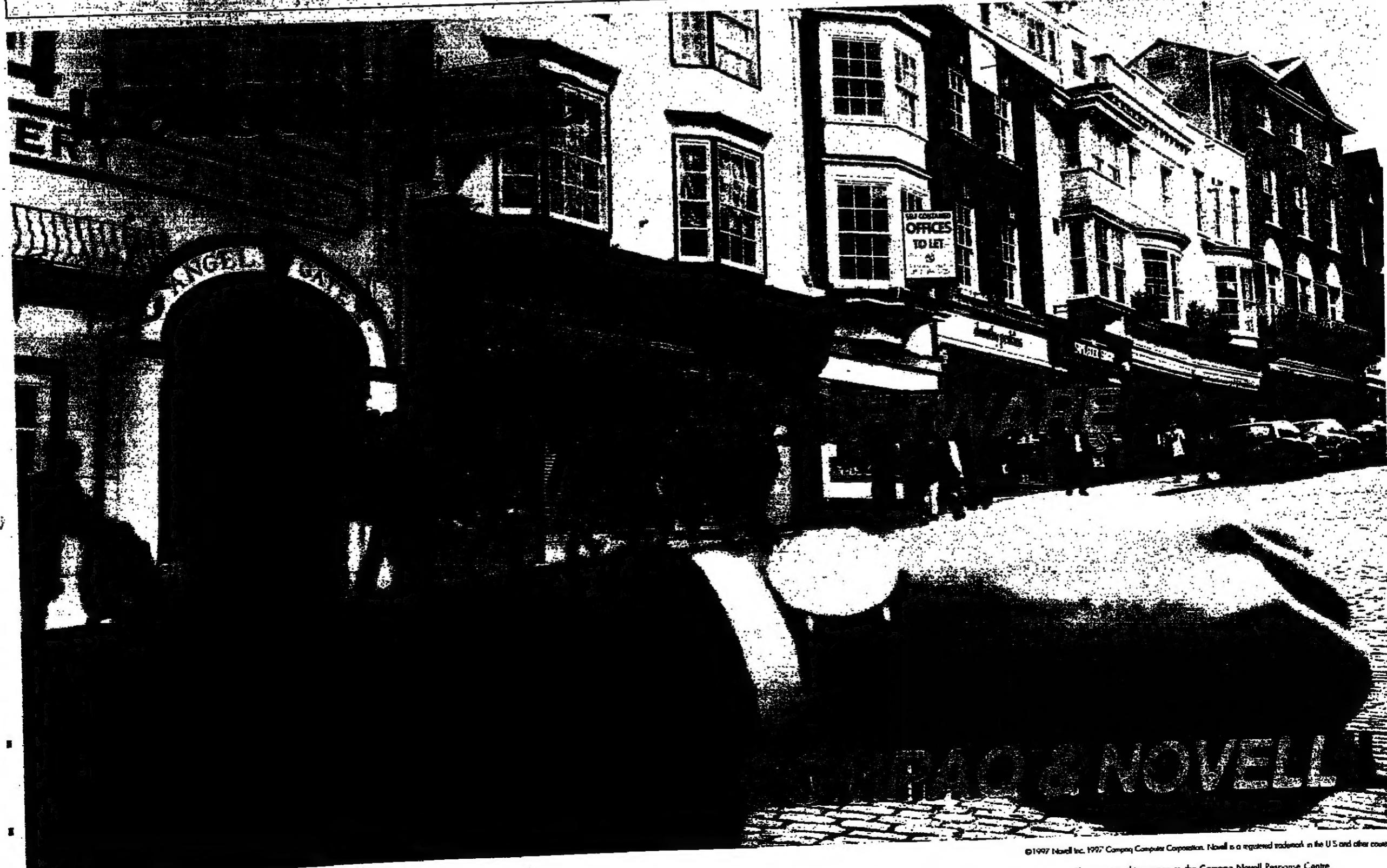
DIANA, Princess of Wales, arrived in Angola yesterday to publicise a campaign to rid the war-ravaged and desperately poor African state of its 12 million landmines.

Looking tired at the end of an 11-hour flight, she nevertheless got straight down to business on the tarmac of the airport at Luanda, the Angolan capital, by making a statement to reporters and Angolan officials.

She said: "By visiting Angola we shall gain an understanding of the plight of the victims of landmines and how survivors are helped to recover from their injuries. We will also be able to observe the wider implications of these devastating weapons on the life of that country as a whole. It is my sincere hope that by working together in the next few days we shall focus attention on this vital but now largely neglected issue. So let's get on."

The Princess has agreed to lend her support to a Red Cross campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines, despite severing her connections

Fears for peace, page 13
Leading article, page 21



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ATOL 463

Bishop condemns society for loss of childish innocence

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE newly enthroned Bishop of Chester has condemned modern-day Britain as forcing children to grow up too quickly, in a culture where pop stars are let off with a caution for drug offences and people are obsessed with the sexual misdemeanours of others.

The Rt Rev Peter Forster, 47, who has four children, said that the institution of marriage was in danger and he called for "more disciplined sexual behaviour". He launched his moral crusade two days after he was enthroned as the Church of England's youngest bishop.

He expressed deep concern for Kayleigh Ward, the nine-year-old missing from her home in Chester since before Christmas. "Children cease to be children so quickly these days," he said. "They are exposed to many temptations."

Four weeks ago Kayleigh went missing from a council temporary hostel where she lived with her mother and two sisters. The child, said by police to be streetwise, disappeared after she went to buy a bag of chips.

Dr Forster emphasised that he did not want to pass judgment on the girl's situation, acknowledging that "being a parent today is a hard business". But he attacked permissiveness, contrasting the plight of young children

Forster, whose children are aged between 2 and 17, served as senior tutor at St John's College, Durham, and was vicar of Beverley Minster, in east Yorkshire. He believes he is the only bishop to have worked as a dustman — a holiday job when he was a student reading chemistry at Oxford University.

He spoke of his concern for the moral state of Britain in his enthronement sermon, in which he talked about the rising suicide rate, crime and the breakup of families. Yesterday Dr Forster reiterated the theme of the family in danger.

"We have been in danger of losing the more noble vision of marriage and what it is to bind ourselves to another person for life," he said.

"Marriage is for better or for worse. When marrying couples in the past I have always used the analogy of marriage and war. When our soldiers went off to fight in 1939 the cause was right and they did not go out for a trial period.

"At the moment we have an obsession with sexual misdemeanours in our culture which is unhealthy and reflects the free-for-all that has been going on in sexual relationships. Prudishness is produced as a reaction and this is unhealthy, as is the sort of prurience that exists now. A better outlook will flourish if we can establish a vision of the nobility of relationships."

such as Kayleigh with the way Liam Gallagher, lead singer of the pop group Oasis, was left off with a caution for possession of cocaine. He said the decision struck him as odd.

He said: "The desire for a quick fix is an underlying problem of our culture. The Pill and the sexual revolution may have brought some benefits but they also created problems. There is a need for more disciplined sexual behaviour in our society; heterosexual and homosexual." Dr

Forster, whose children are aged 50 or over and a retirement bulge is expected to cause further shortages.

The college said that the number of students joining nursing courses fell by 39 per cent between 1987-88 and 1994-95.

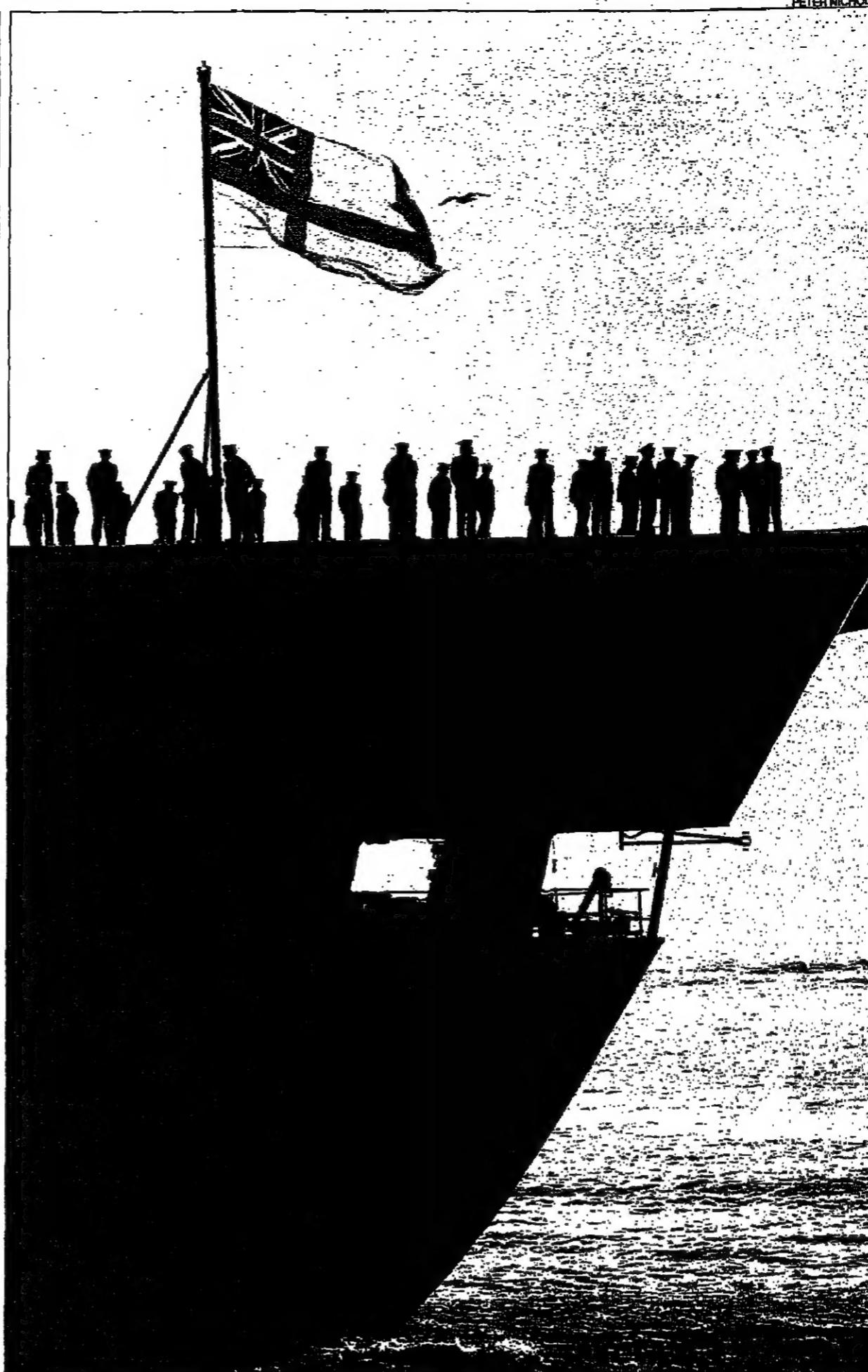
Although the number of places has been increased by 14 per cent this year, these will not feed through into the workforce until the next century. "We have been saying for years that places should not be cut," the RCN said.

NURSES are getting older as fewer join the profession and more are nearing retirement. Jeremy Laurence writes. Fewer than one in five nurses is now under 30 compared with more than a quarter in 1990, according to figures published yesterday by the UK Central Council on Nursing and Midwifery.

The explosion in higher education was blamed by the council for luring students from nursing. "Anyone with

half a brain can get to university and get a degree now. People who might have gone into nursing a decade or more ago may now be attracted by vocational courses," a spokesman said.

The Royal College of Nursing said the NHS was facing its worst shortage of nurses for ten years. It issued a list of 34 hospitals in England and Wales that have reported difficulty in filling posts. More than 20 per cent of nurses are



Leading a task force of 21 ships and 7,500 men: the crew of HMS Illustrious leaving Britain for 7½ months

Navy gets in trim for Far East handover

By LYNN JENKINS

THE aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious weighed anchor at Portsmouth yesterday to lead the biggest deployment of Royal Navy ships since the Gulf War. The show of strength in the Asia-Pacific region will coincide with the handover of Hong Kong to China.

More than 7,500 men and 21 ships will be involved in operation Ocean Wave 97, visiting 34 countries and taking part in 26 exercises during the next 7½ months. Nick Soames, Armed Forces Minister, said it was essential to show commitment to the region.

"Britain has huge interests in the Asia-Pacific region — commercial, political and strategic," he said. "This shows our concern for the stability and health of that part of the world. It will show Britain's determination to remain a player on the world stage."

He dismissed as "foolish idle speculation" that the operation was also a show of strength to China at the handover of Hong Kong, or an insurance policy should events not run to plan. "The orderly and smooth rundown of the Hong Kong garrison will continue, and there is no reason to believe there will be anything difficult whatever."

The Royal Yacht Britannia embarks next Monday alongside Ocean Wave for her last overseas deployment. In her most ambitious commercial programme, she will visit nations including Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as being joined by two ships from the last group for the Hong Kong handover, before returning in August. The timing of the replacement is undecided.

Fleet training will include amphibious assault, joint training operating equipment in very hot weather and co-operation with forces from Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Rear Admiral Alan West, commander of the UK task group, said: "The amphibious deployment supports development in the area and shows military might in the region where you only need to look to Korea to see great instability."

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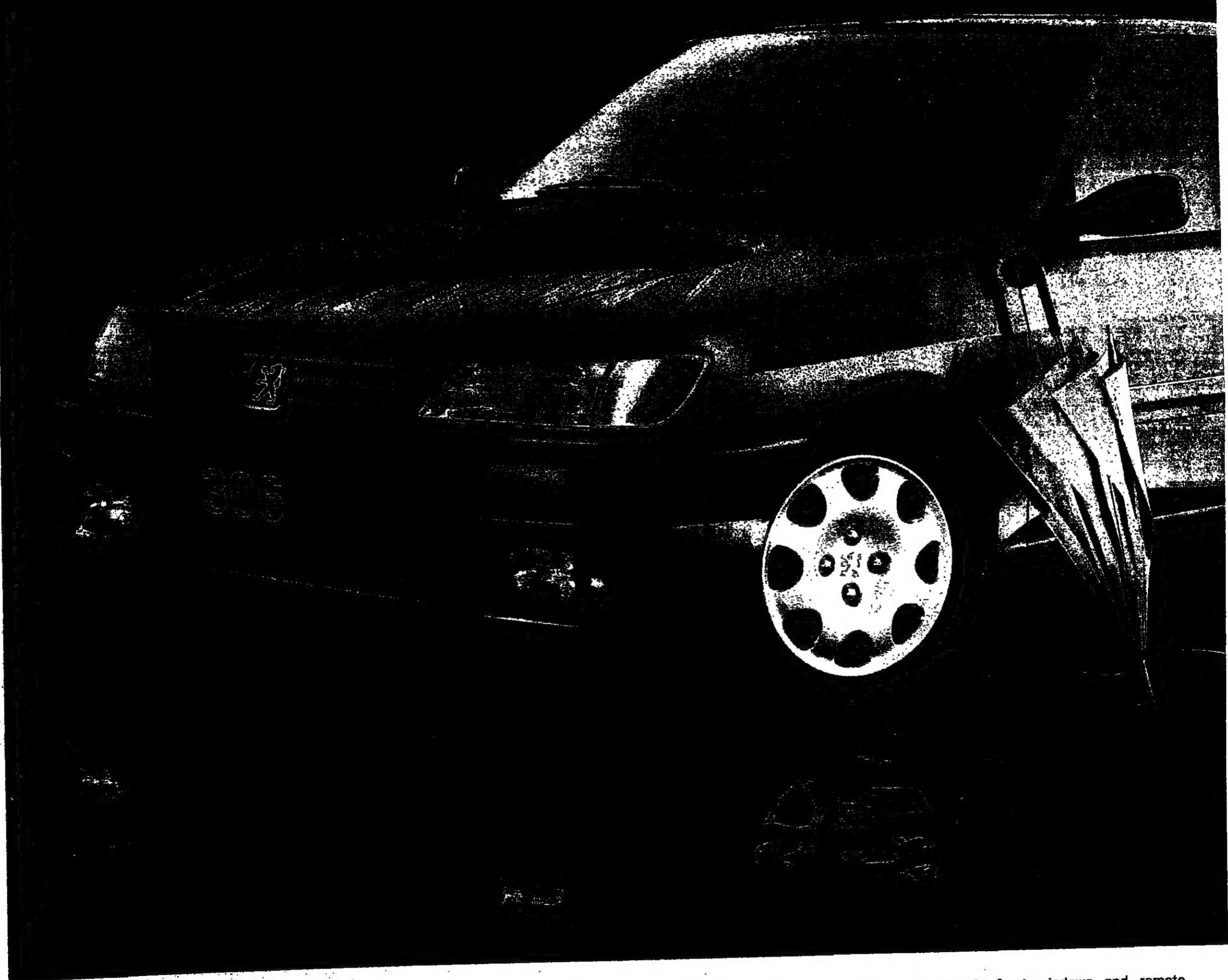
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AY JANUARY 14
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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

7

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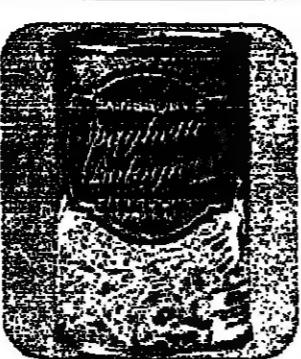
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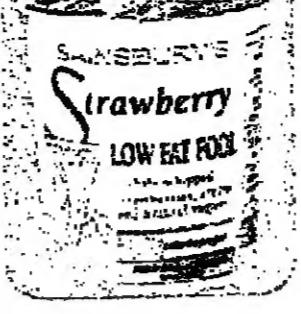
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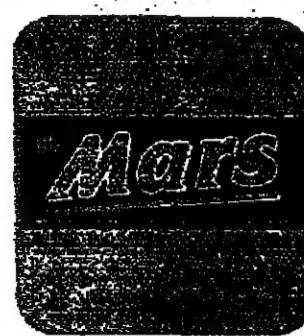
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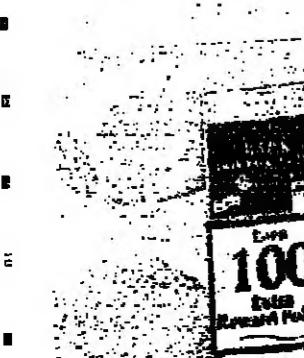
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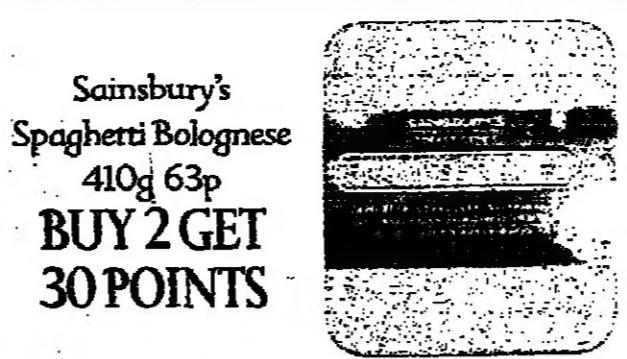
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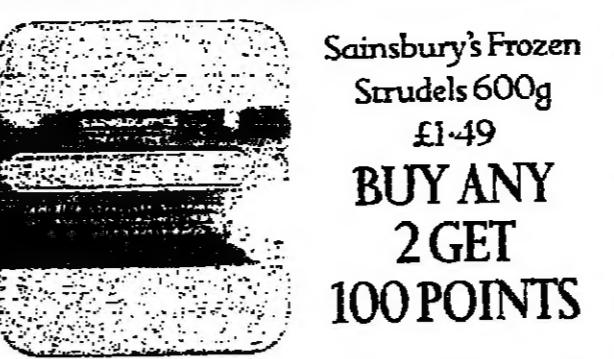
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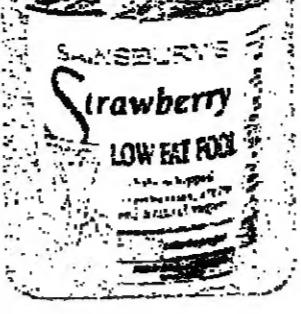
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Twin Pack 500g
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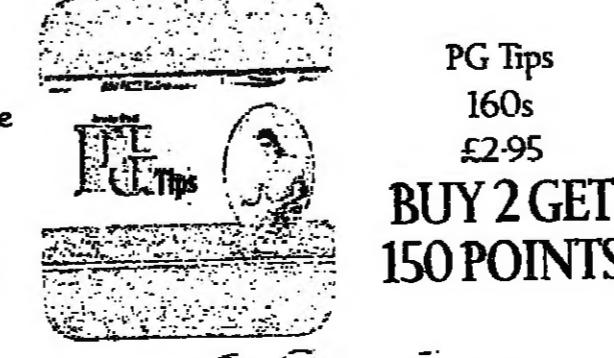
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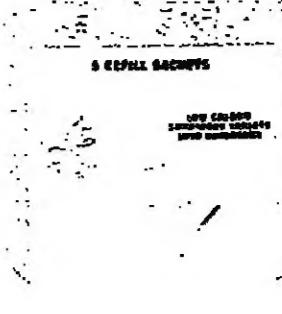
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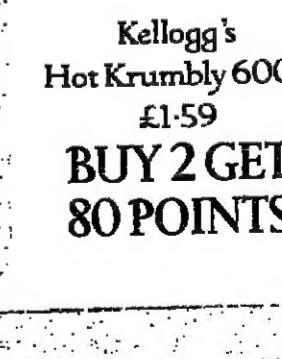
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Shell considers new roles for redundant Brent Spar

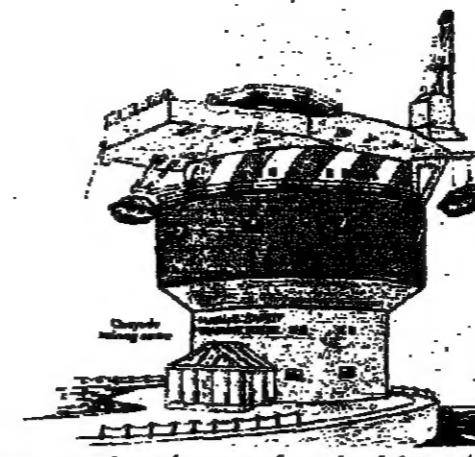
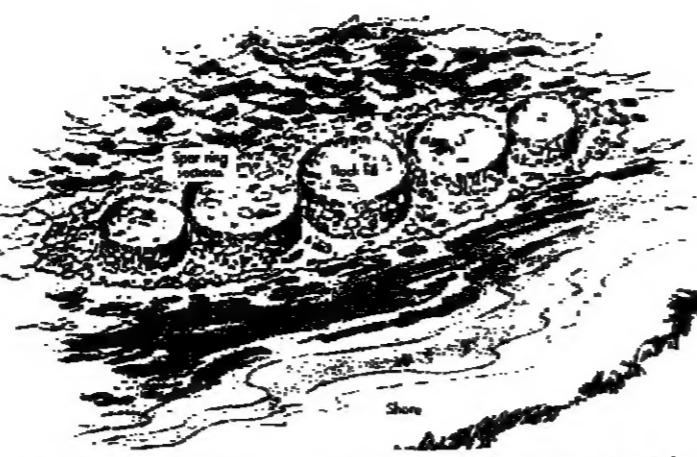


By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SHELL yesterday ruled out dumping the Brent Spar oil platform at sea and announced a shortlist of proposals for its future, including scrapping it on shore, using it for coastal defences or as a training centre, and turning it into a harbour gate.

In the summer of 1995 Greenpeace successfully campaigned against plans to sink the Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Its activists occupied the platform and Shell was boycotted on the Continent. After backing down under intense pressure, Shell apologised to the Government, which had backed its plans.

The shortlist of proposals from six groups for the 14,500-tonne buoy has been arrived at from a list of 30 ideas, including turning it into a floating casino, a Blackpool tourist attraction, and an electricity



Among shortlisted proposals for the Brent Spar are using it in a coastal protection scheme, and turning it into a training centre

The final proposals include an Anglo-French bid by McAlpine Doris JV to raise and rotate the buoy using compressed natural gas to turn the hull into a quay extension.

Wood-GMC, in an Anglo-Norwegian bid, suggests jacking the buoy in half and using the top as a training centre and the bottom as a quay extension.

Kvaerner Stolt Seaway Alliance, in a Norwegian-Dutch bid, also claims that the top half could be used as an offshore training facility. Both groups claim that there are companies in Norway that are keen to acquire part of the Brent Spar for that purpose.

AMEC of Britain is suggesting using cleaned sections of the hull as part of the Environment Agency's coastal protection programme for the East-Anglian coast. The hull sections of the buoy, sliced up into hoops, would stabilise the core of the defence.

Plans to dump the Brent Spar were blocked in 1995

generator with windmills. Those ideas have been scrapped in favour of more modest schemes which, Shell insists, would be cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Eric Faulls, Shell Expro's de-

commissioning manager, said: "The proposals now to be developed represent the best of those we were offered, while also maintaining a good range of potential solutions. This is an exciting com-

petition and still wide open. We genuinely do not know what the eventual solution will be."

"All the ideas require the Spar to be first raised from the water. Overcoming its structural limita-

tions to do this, without serious risks, poses an enormous engineering challenge."

"But we believe these six world-class contractor groups can do some ground-breaking work."

Bullimore treated for frostbite but in 'terrific condition'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN FREMANTLE

TONY BULLIMORE underwent surgery to save a badly frostbitten finger last night after a joyful reunion with his wife Lalei.

"I always knew the old bulldog would come home," she said shortly after stepping off a flight from London.

The yachtsman, who had spent four days in the hull of his upturned yacht in the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean, replied: "You're either a survivor or you're not a survivor."

The Bullimores hugged and kissed when they met in the British consul's residence in Perth. Mr Bullimore told his wife: "Careful, don't stand on my feet," referring to the frostbite that has affected them. He was then taken for treatment in a decompression chamber.

Doctors said he and Thierry Dubois, the Frenchmen who was also picked up by HMAS *Adelaide* last week, were extremely fit considering their ordeal. Dr Harry Oxer said: "I think they are in terrific condition. They are incredibly cheerful, they're great."



Thousands of people turned out in Fremantle to see the rescued yachtsmen arriving on HMAS *Adelaide*

said the aim of the recompression treatment was to reduce the swelling in Mr Bullimore's feet. "It will get more oxygen to the nerve endings and tissues in the blood vessels so the normal healing process is helped."

Earlier Mr Bullimore, 56, had returned to a hero's welcome as thousands of people crowded onto the quayside at Fremantle to catch a glimpse of the Briton, who has vowed to continue solo round-the-world sailing.

"I have got one or two projects in my mind," he disclosed at a press conference. "The fact is that sailing is one of the things I do in life. The simple answer is that I am going to go again."

Asked if he thought he was pushing his luck, Mr Bullimore replied with an emphatic "No".

Pressed about race rules that allow yachtsmen to sail so far into the Southern Ocean, he said he was preparing a list of recommendations to the organisers of the Vendee Globe challenge in France but was pushing his luck.

The yachtsman, whose survival story is attracting big commercial interest from newspapers, television and film studios, added before shuffling into a waiting ambulance: "It doesn't take much to work that one out, does it?"

Later, asked whether he might need trauma counselling after his experience, Mr Bullimore said: "I would much prefer a beer. You work it out for yourself, what would you sooner do? Go and have a beer down the pub or be counselled?"

The yachtsman, whose survival story is attracting big commercial interest from newspapers, television and film studios, added before shuffling into a waiting ambulance: "It doesn't take much to work that one out, does it?"

Any event that is completely outside a person's normal experience, particularly if it is life threatening or endangers their family, their house or possessions, can induce post-traumatic stress disorder. Nothing could be further from a person's normal lifestyle than having to prepare an upturned yacht in the South Atlantic as one's tomb.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is always precipitated by some dramatic happening but its effect on an individual

depends on their vulnerability. The great majority of people are able, like Mr Bullimore, to withstand the most appalling disasters, and their psyche is so strong that after a few good nights' sleep they are back to their normal selves.

Mr Bullimore shows every evidence of having a personality far stronger than most and one that could withstand situations that would give most people nightmares for life.

Evidence is now accumulat-

ing that once any of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder surface, the sooner treatment is instigated the more likely the condition is to respond to treatment.

Conversely, there is also evidence that if counselling is made widely available to people who have no symptoms, the very symptoms it is designed to alleviate may be precipitated.

It seems that ill-advised counselling may well awaken a demon that might otherwise have lain dormant. Mr Bullimore will have to

watch out for recurrent nightmares and his and his wife will have to take note as to whether he is unusually sensitive, cross and irritable, has lost interest in his usual pleasures, or feels detached from strangers and incapable of displaying the love and affection that he used to dispense.

People who are going to develop post-traumatic stress disorder may also find it difficult to sleep and to concentrate and they tend to suffer such symptoms as sweating and tremulousness.

For the time being, Mr Bullimore should stick to his beer drinking and enjoy his reunion with his family. If, in time, he finds that his sleep is disturbed, and that he can no longer chat to his wife about the "daily round and trivial task", he should then seek to see a counsellor.

Royal gun sale

A shotgun given to the future Edward VIII in 1899 when he was the five-year-old Duke of York is expected to fetch up to £50,000 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's on February 19. The 360 hammer gun, by James Purdey & Sons, is about one third the normal length and engraved with a crowned E.

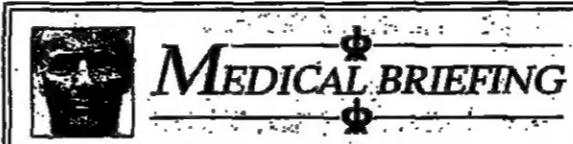
Boy dies on M66

Stephen Crawshaw, ten, of Bury, Greater Manchester, was killed after he stopped to pick up his prized baseball cap which fell off as he and a group of friends ran across the M66 near Bury. Police said it appeared that the children were using the motorway as a shortcut.

Hero pays price

PC Stuart Mackenzie, 49, who won the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his part in the capture in 1975 of the kidnapper and murderer Donald Neilson, is retiring because of defective hearing caused by a shotgun blast during the arrest at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire.

Few beers the best course for recovery



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE dismissive approach of Tony Bullimore to the benefits of immediate counselling after a harrowing experience is in accord with modern teaching. As one would expect from a man of his temperament, Mr Bullimore opted for a few pints with the lads as a means of overcoming any post-traumatic stress disorder.

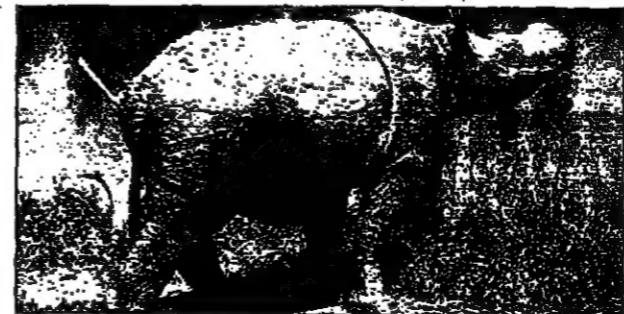
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Evidence is now accumulat-



The Bornean rhino is smaller than the Sumatran, above

Newly identified breed of rhino is most at risk of extinction

By NICK NUTTALL

SCIENTISTS have discovered that a small group of hairy rhinoceroses living in Borneo are genetically unique and constitute a distinct subspecies of the creature. It makes the Bornean rhino the most critically endangered on the globe.

Some researchers believe as few as 25 of these elusive animals live in the wild. The scientists fear that the subspecies may be lost if it is allowed to breed with its nearest kin. Professor Don Melnick, an evolutionary geneti-

cist of Columbia University, a member of the team, said yesterday that cross-breeding with Sumatran rhinos increased the risk that the offspring would have reduced fertility and be ill-suited for the wild. He called for the Bornean animals to be swiftly moved into a tropical forest reserve.

The generic studies into the rhinos of Borneo have been carried out by Professor Melnick and researchers including Dr Patrick Mahendru Andau, director of the Wildlife Department of the state of Sabah, where the last confirmed sightings of these animals

have been made. The findings are published today in the journal *Conservation Biology*.

The Columbia University scientist discovered in 1989 that several subspecies of African black rhino are so close genetically that they can be interbred to increase that species' chance of survival. But the genetic differences between the Sumatran rhino, of which there are estimated to be between 200 and 300 animals, and the Borneo breed are too significant to make this sensible, the scientists claim.

The Bornean rhinos are slightly

smaller than their Sumatran cousins and they produce quite shaggy coats when held in captivity.

More than a million Sumatran and Borneo rhinos, the oldest surviving group of rhinos, once roamed Southeast Asia in the mid-19th century. Small creatures with a distinctive double horn, the numbers have been dramatically reduced by poaching, development, logging of their tropical forest homes and booming human populations. They have proved difficult to breed in captivity because they need semi-natural conditions.

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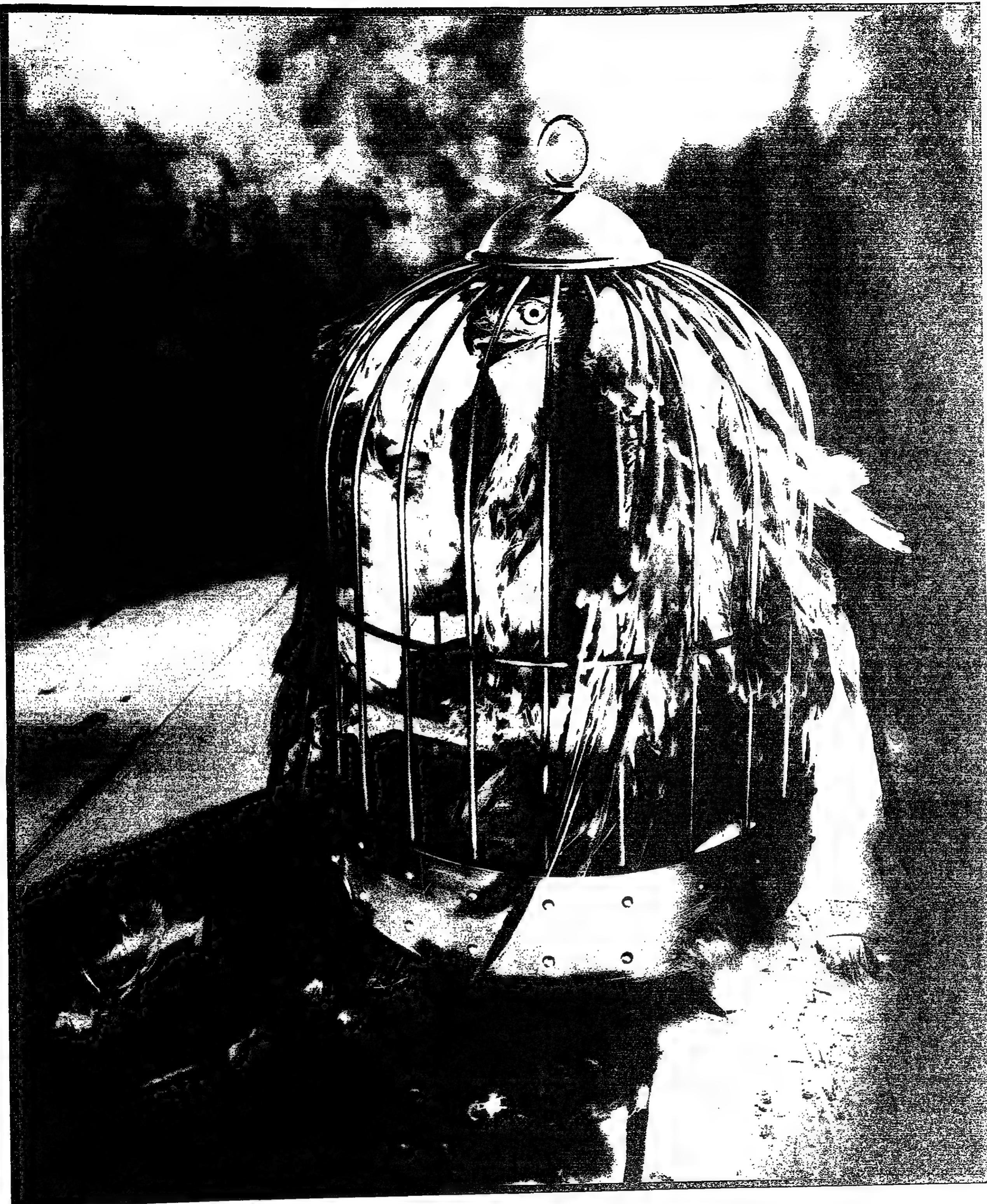


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How long can



How long can Government policy go on restricting our growth?

The Government claims that it believes in free trade and open competition. So far as international air travel is concerned, the reality is very different. Manchester Airport's ability to grow is being stunted by red tape in the form of archaic regulations dating back to 1947, which were introduced essentially for military reasons, and before the introduction of passenger jets. These regulations - called bilateral agreements - require that before an airline can start a new service between 2 countries an international treaty between the respective Governments is required.

In today's highly competitive market place these rules are an utter

irrelevance to Manchester and other regional airports. Other Governments recognise this and pursue an Open Skies policy to the benefit of their airports and countries.

Major competitor airports like Singapore and Amsterdam therefore attract additional routes without getting snarled up in inter-governmental politics. By contrast, Manchester is constrained by a regulatory process which impedes and deters international airlines from starting new services.

The impact on the regional economy and on employment is enormous. An independent firm of analysts, York Consulting, have estimated that the

introduction of an Open Skies policy would create in the order of 10,000 jobs in the North West between now and 2005.

An IATA passenger survey has found Manchester to be the 'World's Best Airport'. Many airlines want to start up routes to and from Manchester, allowing more passengers to fly directly to their chosen destinations, and creating jobs here rather than exporting them. The Government can unilaterally declare 'Open Skies' over Manchester and other regional airports and support the creation of jobs and passenger choice.

There is no good reason why the Government should not act now. It must!

The World's Best Airport

Right-wing rivalry has boosted Howard's leadership potential

Can anyone stop Michael Howard? The Home Secretary starts the year as the frontrunner for the Tory leadership in the Westminster gossip stakes. Such fashions can quickly change, but the emergence of Mr Howard from the pack in the past couple of months says a lot about the current state of the Tory party.

The general assumption is that the next Tory leader cannot be a pro-European in view of the party's shift in a sceptic direction. This rules out Kenneth Clarke, despite his many qualifications as a minister of weight and experience, as even most of his allies

now accept Michael Heseltine would at most only be a stopgap leader in a hung parliament, not a candidate to take the Tories into the next millennium, despite his enthusiasm for celebrating that event in style.

On the Right, John Redwood and Michael Portillo are widely seen as both too factional and as cancelling each other out. At present, they have split the committed sceptic Right, as each man's supporters eagerly points out the faults in the other. Mr Redwood remains an outsider. Despite his assiduity over the past 18 months and his attempts to

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

humanise his image, many Tory MPs still question Mr Portillo's judgment despite his solid record as Defence Secretary and studious avoidance of boat-rocking over the past 18 months.

One could overtake the other and emerge as the clear right-wing standard-bearer by the time of a contest, but their rivalry has provided an opening for Mr Howard. Never a "bastard" during the Maastricht saga, he has even better credentials as a loyal

ist than Mr Portillo. But no one doubts his sceptic beliefs either. During the original Maastricht negotiations in late 1991, his insistence was crucial to the British opt-out on the social chapter. His allies have been dropping hints that he will explicitly back renegotiation of the terms of Britain's membership of the European Union.

Mr Howard has been helped rather than hindered by his fears in the courts and his disputes with the judiciary. To the Tory Right, these have validated his self-consciously "tough" stand on law and order, by comparison

with an allegedly "liberal and out of touch" criminal justice establishment. He might not win many votes in Whitehall or the Temple but this is less important than the support of the *Daily Mail* and many in the right-wing 92 Group. Of other possible runners, few MPs take Gillian Shephard's ambitions seriously; William Hague is everyone's favourite for the first contest of the next century; and Stephen Dorrell has annoyed his pro-European friends and won no supporters among the sceptics by his new year initiative on Europe. He does not appear serious. The three Scots candi-

dates seem temporarily to have fallen back — Michael Forsyth because of the vulnerability of his seat despite his impressive record as Scottish Secretary; Malcolm Rifkind, probably the strongest potential centre-left candidate, because he is out of the lime-light as Foreign Secretary; and Ian Lang because he still does not have a clear image despite being regarded as a "safe pair of hands".

Much will depend on the state of the Tory parliamentary party after the election — and on which candidates have a solid base of support to do well in the first round. An unofficial campaign is

already under way on Mr Howard's behalf. He has incidentally been more active than other ministers in attending local constituency functions since the autumn: all, of course, with the aim of boosting morale and winning the election. He appeals both to the Right and the Centre, not least as a strong *Commons* and public performer who did, after all, get the better of Tony Blair over the minimum wage at the last election. At present the pro-European Tory Left cannot see who might stop him.

PETER RIDDELL

Bingham supports caution on bugging

BY FRANCES GIBB
AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, is to support the growing demands for curbs on proposed new powers for police to bug private premises.

Several peers, led by the law lord Lord Browne-Wilkinson, have already warned that Michael Howard's Police Bill, which provides for the new powers, represents a serious intrusion into civil liberties and requires safeguards.

Lord Bingham will attend next week's Lords debate on the Bill and is likely to vote in support of an amendment tabled by Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Lord Lester of Herne Hill and a group of leading Liberal Democrat lawyers give warning that the Bill as it stands "represents a serious threat to the liberties of the citizens of Britain as they have been established for centuries". They also say that it is inconsistent with the European Convention on Human Rights, particularly article eight guaranteeing respect for private and family life.

The Bill puts police surveillance on a statutory footing and will allow bugging on private property, including lawyers' offices, if this is required for the detection or prevention of serious crime.

Lord Bingham is backing the spirit of Lord Rodgers's amendment, which says that such surveillance should be authorised by a circuit judge and not just by a police officer.

So far Labour has refused to vote against the Bill. But after widespread criticism of the proposals, the party is drafting a series of amendments. It is most concerned about the amount of power given to chief constables, who will be able to grant permission to plant a bug for six months.

Leading article
and letters, page 21

Major flies home to face Labour war of attrition

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR flies home from India today to attend tonight's crucial Commons vote on the Budget, which will provide the first test of Labour's non-cooperation policy.

Labour and the Tories are summoning all their MPs to attend the vote on the second reading of the Finance Bill. The Government will have to rely on the Ulster Unionists to get the measures through.

Labour has announced that from now on it will suspend pairing arrangements, under which MPs from opposing parties can agree to be absent at the same time. The move follows claims that the Government cheated last month to ensure that it would win an important vote.

As MPs to Westminster returned after their Christmas break, Donald Dewar, the Labour Chief Whip, emphasised that his party was determined to pursue its non-cooperation tactics.

Tony Blair has said that he would push a vote of no-confidence on a big issue if possible but Mr Dewar will strive to inflict as much damage as possible through minor defeats in committee and on uncontroversial legislation in the Commons. The Tories will have to turn up at almost all the votes held.

Mr Dewar said: "We have

got a party on the government benches which is acting like an opposition, which is literally falling apart before our eyes. Therefore we are going to push and push."

He called for a change in the make-up of the Standing Committee for the Finance Bill, which usually has a Tory majority, to reflect the parity in numbers between the Tories and Opposition MPs. Mr Dewar is hoping to defeat the Tories several times during the committee stage of the Bill, which details the Government's Budget measure.

Since the death of Barry Porter, the Tory MP for Wirral South, the number of Tories is 323, the same as the total number of opposition MPs. The Selection Committee will decide on the make-up of the finance committee tomorrow, but Tory business managers made clear that they would not bow to Mr Dewar's demands for equal representation for the Tories and the Opposition. Sir Fergus Montgomery, chairman of the committee, suggested that there would be no change as Mr Porter would still be counted as the sitting MP until a by-election had been held.

Since the Tory majority was wiped out by the Barnsley East by-election last month, the position of the nine Ulster Unionists has become crucial. The Deputy Prime Minister's remarks came as Teresa Gorman rallied support for

the voting arithmetic. Martyn Smyth, the Ulster Unionist MP for South Belfast, said that he and his fellow MPs would be prepared to join the other opposition parties only on a genuine policy issue. "We would not be prepared to go for stunt politics, but certainly on real issues we would be prepared to vote against any government," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

But Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, insisted that the Opposition parties were unlikely to force a government defeat. He acknowledged that there would be difficulties, but said that between now and the election Tory backbenchers would support the Government in completing its "popular legislative programme".

□ The Tories have started the election year losing rather than gaining momentum, according to a poll of 1,000 people who say they voted for them in 1992. The poll, conducted on January 3 to 5 by Opinion Research Business on behalf of brokers HSBC James Capel, shows that the proportion of Tory loyalists in this group has fallen from 50 to 46 per cent since October. The report estimates that even if current wavering returns to the fold Labour would still win a clear majority.

Her referendum Bill and John Gorst and Hugh Dykes demanded further assurances from Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, over the future of their local hospital.

The Tory high command is determined to stamp out any disloyalty or dissent over the next few weeks and has already signalled that it would not be backing Sir George Gardiner in his attempt to keep his Reigate seat. In a newspaper article last month, Sir George accused John Major of being a "ventriloquist's dummy" to Kenneth Clarke.

In an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Mr Heseltine said: "The danger of disunity in the Party is stark one... What would be a disaster would be to allow Labour to get back into power, with all the threats to our

living standards and the tax levels that would mean, because of the apparent disunity in the Conservative Party."

Last night Sir John Gorst, MP for Headon North, and Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East, met Mr Dorrell to discuss the casualty unit at Edgware General Hospital. Sir John, who told the whip last month that they could no longer rely on his vote, would not reveal his voting intentions yesterday.

"If we get some progress, my withdrawal of co-operation is hopefully a thing of the past," he said before the meeting. "But it would have to be very tangible. Loose assurances that all will be well at some stage in the future isn't what I would call a binding assurance."

There had been speculation

that Mr Dykes might join Mr Gorst in withdrawing his co-operation. But yesterday he said: "I think it will be a positive meeting. I am looking forward to a positive result."

Last night Mrs Gorman, MP for Billerica, gave no sign that she intended to fall into line over the Government's policy on Europe. Mrs Gorman is now urging MPs in marginal constituencies to back her Bill, which would provide for a referendum asking the public if they wanted Britain to leave the European Union.

She has reminded MPs and

parliamentary candidates

that if they pledge their support for her Bill, then Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party will not field

candidates against them at the general election.

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Minister awaits call from MPs' committee

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION is expected today on whether a second government minister will have to face a televised inquisition by the committee of MPs whose damning report prompted the resignation of the Paymaster General.

The Commons Standards and Privileges committee last night discussed whether to order Andrew Mitchell, the Social Security Minister, to give evidence under oath about his role in the cash-for-questions affair. But the meeting ended after more than two hours without a decision being taken.

Mr Mitchell, MP for Gedling, was a whip in 1994 when, unusually, he was appointed to the now defunct Members' Interests Committee. He is accused of exploiting his position to pass on privileged information to Richard Ryder, the Tory Chief Whip.

The Tory party high command is desperate to resolve the matter in private and to avoid a high-profile public appearance by Mr Mitchell, who will face pressure to follow the example of David Willetts, who resigned as Paymaster General after the committee accused him of "dissembling".

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IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY at the Commons,大臣質問に Michael Heseltine が登場。議論の中心は Prime Minister's Questions で、特に Budget Bill の二回目の議論と Local Government Bill の議論が予定されています。また、Wednesday抽選の問題や Camelot との関係についても議論される予定です。

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Israeli hardliners launch bid to halt Hebron pact

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI hardliners yesterday launched a campaign in the Cabinet and the Knesset to prevent Israeli troops withdrawals from Hebron after Sunday's breakthrough in negotiations engineered by King Hussein of Jordan.

As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in a Jerusalem hotel to finalise an agreement for Israeli troops to leave most of the disputed city immediately, and 80 per cent of the occupied West Bank by mid-1998, Jewish settlers called a series of meetings.

Leaders of the 450 Jews living in the heart of Hebron and the 130,000 in the wider West Bank — and they regard as Israel's biblical heritage — accused the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu of betrayal.

They vowed to target individual ministers in his 18-member Cabinet to persuade them to reject the Jordanian-brokered compromise.

Last night the hardliners claimed that at least seven ministers were prepared to vote against the deal and that at least three others were wavering.

Cabinet approval is not legally required, but it would be difficult for Mr Netanyahu — the former political darling of the settler community — to proceed without a Cabinet majority. Intense lobbying was also taking place in the

corridors of the 120-seat Knesset, which has to approve any deal.

Ehud Barak, the former Labour Defence Minister and chief contender to lead Labour in the next election, said the new deal was worse than an Israeli point of view than that negotiated in 1995 by the previous Labour Government.

Political commentators said that steering any deal through the Cabinet and parliament would confront Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, with the most serious challenge of his turbulent eight months at the helm. Among influential ministers on record as opposing the Hebron deal in its present form is Ariel Sharon, the former war hero.

The agreement is liable to create an extremely severe and dangerous situation here," said Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the militant Hebron settlers who live among 120,000 hostile Palestinians. Tension in the city was high after reports of King Hussein's eleven-hour initiative, and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle.

At a stormy "emergency meeting" of the Yesha Council, which represents settlers in the whole of the West Bank, there were calls for mass civil disobedience and political moves to find a replacement Prime Minister for Mr

Netanyahu. Outside the hotel where the deal was being drafted, a group of Israeli right-wingers waved black flags and held up signs, including one that read: "Hebron deal, spells end of Zionism."

As night fell, Israeli radio reported Palestinian negotiators were claiming that Israel was trying to alter nine points in the compromise agreement. Among outstanding points still not agreed were a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners and security arrangements for the new Palestinian airport in Gaza.

In the Knesset, Michael Kleiner, a right-wing deputy,

described the Hebron deal as "a trap set by Yasir Arafat" for Mr Netanyahu. The National Religious Party, an important part of the ruling coalition, was quick to decide at an angry meeting that its nine Knesset members would vote against the pact.



CLAUDIO CORTEZ, REUTER

Hong Kong big wigs on parade

colony's cold season. Many residents don heavy winter coats in temperatures that rarely fall below 60F (16C). It is not yet known whether the rubric "One Country, Two Systems", which underpins the 1984 British

Chinese treaty, will include the continuance of the full sartorial legal panoply, in which the wigs alone, created at London's Ede & Ravenscroft, cost almost £1,600. That decision will be made by the

new Chief Justice, yet to be named by Tong Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive.

More serious is a shortage of judges. Fifteen of the high court judges will be eligible for retirement before the July 1 handover.

Law, page 43

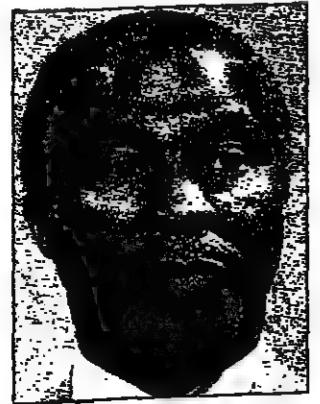
Pressure mounts on Savimbi to join peace effort

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THABO MBeki, South Africa's Deputy President, flew to Angola yesterday in an attempt to save the faltering peace process and prevent a return to civil war when the United Nations peacekeeping force pulls out next month.

Last week President Mandela met Jonas Savimbi, leader of Unita, the former rebel group, to urge him to join a government of national unity. Dr Savimbi signed the 1994 Lusaka ceasefire, but has refused to take part in the Government, fearing that he and his followers would be killed in Luanda, the capital and stronghold of the left-wing MPLA administration of President dos Santos.

Mr Mbeki briefed President dos Santos yesterday on the talks, which he said were "very fruitful". Dr Savimbi had previously refused to meet Mr Mandela in South Africa, his former backer and arms supplier. Mr Mbeki insisted South Africa would not take the part of the United Nations, America, Russia and Portugal as mediators, who are trying to broker agreement before the scheduled formation of a government of national reconciliation on January 23. Francisco Pedro, a former exile



Mbeki: mission to avert new civil war

Leading article, page 21

South Africa seeks to outlaw dogs of war

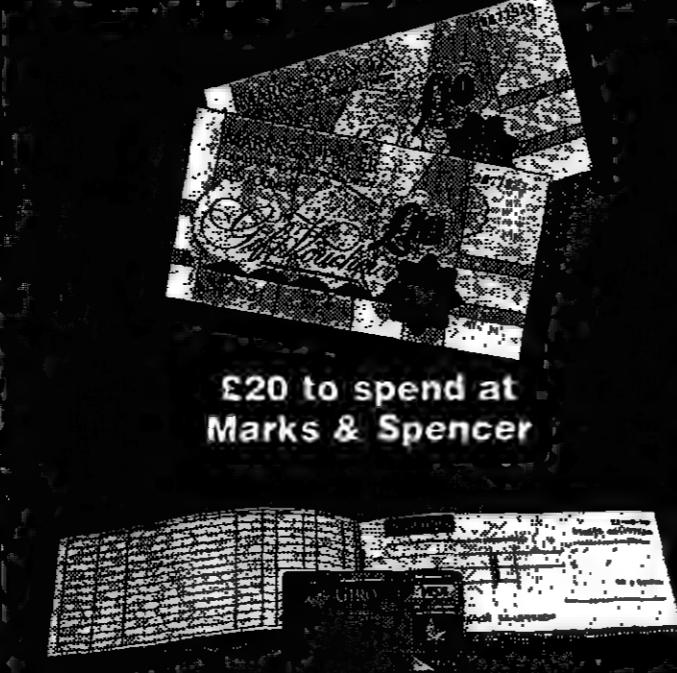
FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

LEGISLATION to outlaw the recruiting of mercenaries in South Africa, and to stop local companies setting up offshore subsidiaries to provide military and intelligence know-how to other countries, is to be drafted urgently by the Pretoria Government.

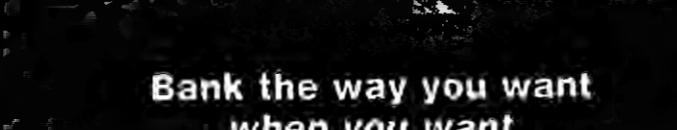
Kader Asmal, chairman of the Conventional Arms Control Committee, a parliamentary body, said yesterday that it had noted with concern reports that South Africans were involved in a mercenary build-up in the Great Lakes area of eastern Zaire.

South Africans who operated in Angola and more recently in Sierra Leone are

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New front opens in German war with Hollywood

Film plot links Bundesbank with Nazi scheme to restore Hitler's domination

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW front has opened in the war of words between Hollywood and the Germans. This time, in the German view, the enemy fire comes not from glittering big box-office champions of Scientology, but from producers determined to depict the Bundesbank and pro-European politicians as the secret heirs to Hitler.

"Hollywood film defames Germany," read the banner headline in the mass circulation *Bild* newspaper. The conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* settled for the tamer headline "World and madness".

The new source of German angst is a film in production based on the novel *The Day After Tomorrow* (Little, Brown & Co.) by Allan Folsom, a scriptwriter. The thriller — which has also been translated into German — describes a conspiracy between the head of the Bundesbank, politicians and businessmen.

Their aim is to restore National Socialism under the cover in advocating a federal Europe. The climax is in the Swiss Alps, where the Bundesbank and other evil Teutons try to transplant Hit-

ler's head — rescued from his Berlin bunker — on to a living body. "It all sounds grotesque," writes Frank Schurmann, the influential *Frankfurter* commentator, "and one becomes nauseous at the thought that very successful books always reveal something of the collective unconscious."

Herr Schurmann said the letter "showed what happens when you view the world with the eyes of a thrill and film writer. The Holocaust becomes nothing more than a story." The same criticism applied to the Folsom book and its conversion into a film.

Germans have long been unhappy about their portrayal by Hollywood. German officers are either stupid (*The Goose Steps Out*, *The Great Escape*); sadistic (*To Kill a Mockingbird*); treacherous (*Lifesaver*); or fanatical (*19th Parallel*). As Germany came to be recognised as one of Europe's biggest markets for Hollywood films, so a slightly more subtle approach crept in. The 1982 film *Escape to Victory*, which combined ethnic and football clichés, managed against all odds to portray a



Evil has landed: Michael Caine as a German, left, Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man* and Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*

fair-minded German officer (played by Max von Sydow, a Swede), pitted against insensitive Nazi colleagues.

Another feature of the Hollywood Nazi was that he was frequently played by an Englishman. This is partly because Englishmen are thought to sneer better (Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*), and partly because they are less offensive to European (and indeed Ger-

man) cinema-goers. Thus, Michael Caine played the doomed paratroop officer in *The Eagle Has Landed*, Robert Shaw the doomed tank commander in *The Battle of the Bulge*, Laurence Olivier the dastardly dentist in *Marathon Man* and Paul Scofield the mad (and of course doomed) villain in *The Train Escape*.

The Germans put up with this for decades but hoped for

a sea change after Liam Neeson played the lead in *Schindler's List* — a kind of German war hero. The feeling, tentatively expressed, was that a unified, firmly democratic Germany deserved better from Hollywood. Instead, producers were peppered with scripts about the Fourth Reich. The Hoffman letter invoking the Nazi era seems to have plunged the German cultural establishment into a deep depression. Perhaps this gritty survival of the Hollywood Nazis has helped to spur Germans to head for Tinseltown themselves. The talk now is of a third wave of German emigration to Hollywood, the first having been in the 1920s with talented directors such as Ernst Lubitsch, and the second taking in many German refugees from the Nazis in the 1930s. The latest wave includes mainly cameramen but

also directors such as Roland Emmerich, who made last summer's hit *Independence Day*. The film rights to Mr Folsom's book were bought for an undisclosed sum by MGM, the recently reinvigorated Hollywood studio. The producer behind the project is Richard Zanuck. Mr Folsom is said to have already made at least \$4 million (£2.3 million) from the book.

Chirac warning as strikes loom over retirement

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC has warned France's public sector workers that mounting demands for earlier retirement, with the threat of further strikes, fly in the face of economic realities and will compound the country's woes.

Inspired by the success of the lorry drivers' strike in November, which extricated a promise of government funding to allow truckers to retire at 55, other sectors are now demanding to stop work earlier on full pensions.

Six major public transport unions have already called for a one-day strike on January 24 to press demands for retirement at 55 rather than the standard age of 60, and with unemployment at a record 12.7 per cent and the Government calling for greater budget austerity, the issue of early retirement is likely to be the next serious test of strength between Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and the unions.

"Our compatriots wish to work less and retire earlier and I understand this," M Chirac said at the weekend. "But our country must not forget the economic and demographic realities of the world we live in... we will not do better if an ever-decreasing number of working people have to carry the weight of an increasing number of young and retired people."

Those hard economic truths were echoed yesterday by numerous key government figures, but they have found little resonance among workers who have seen the Government cave in to truckers. A recent poll by the BVA institute showed that more than six out of ten French voters favour an official retirement age of 55, while barely a third fear this "would aggravate the problem".

Lowering the retirement age would add millions to the government deficit at a time when France is already struggling to meet the debt-reduction criteria for European monetary union.

□ Magazine fined: A Paris court fined the weekly *Paris-Match* Fr100,000 (£12,500) yesterday for publishing two photographs of the late French President, François Mitterrand, taken secretly as he lay on his deathbed.

It also ordered the magazine to pay each member of the Mitterrand family a symbolic Fr1 in damages for violating their privacy. The photographs showed Mitterrand's body in a dark suit and tie, with his hands crossed on his stomach. (Reuters)

Spaniard's promotion deal angers some MEPs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

BARRING an upset, a Spanish conservative from an illustrious family will be picked as President of the European Parliament today in a cosy deal with German parties that has stirred revolt among MEPs from smaller states and political groups.

José María Gil-Robles, 61, a lawyer, has landed the job in a "Buggins's turn" arrangement that has the blessing of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and José María Aznar, Spain's centre-right Prime Minister.

Señor Gil-Robles, deemed less than a heavyweight follower Klaus Hensch, the mild-mannered German Social-Democrat, who has spent the past 2½ years as the leader of the European Union's only directly-elected assembly.

The presidency arrangement, which springs from the power balance in the 626-seat



Gil-Robles set to lead European Parliament

parliament, has prompted a revolt by liberals and left-wingers, led by French MEPs. About 100 votes in today's secret ballot are expected to go to Catherine Lalumière, a former minister under the late President Mitterrand, who is standing in protest against what she calls an undemocratic carve-up.

Spaniards and Germans of both Left and Right have shared the post between them since Britain's Lord Patten stepped down in 1989.

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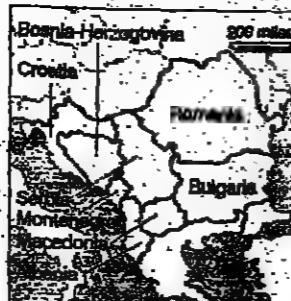
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Political temperatures rise as protests grip ailing Balkan states

By ROGER BOVES

DICTATORS and regimes throughout the Balkans are shaking nervously as feverish street protests in Sofia and Belgrade raise the political temperature.

The troubles are more than a winter virus, and are not confined to the exhausted, buckling regimes of Bulgaria and Serbia. The whole region is looking sickly, prompting doubts about whether the states of the Balkans can be really considered as serious candidates for the European Union or whether they will end up as the embarrassing poor-house of the Continent.



The Dayton peace accords seemed to put paid to the cliché of the Balkan powder keg. Grim warnings of war spreading — into Macedonia perhaps, or carried by a desperate Serb leadership

into Kosovo, thus igniting Albania — appear to have been unduly pessimistic. But the war did a favour to dictatorial and incompetent regimes, disguising the fact that Balkan politicians were dodging unpopular decisions.

Bulgaria best illustrates the dilemma of finding a way of introducing market reforms, boosting living standards and establishing a democratic culture. The demonstrators in Sofia are demanding new elections yet a new, presumably anti-Socialist Government would still be saddled with International Monetary Fund terms requiring the dismissal of at least 60,000

public-sector workers. Potential flashpoints include:

□ Bulgaria: unemployment is at 10.4 per cent among a population of about 8.5 million and rising; inflation 220 per cent and climbing; industrial production down 12 per cent and sinking, is likely to fall. The Socialist Party is incapable of solving the economic problems.

□ Serbia: almost one million people are unemployed in a population of about 9.8 million and inflation is at 100 per cent. The crisis centres on the lack of democratic legitimacy rather than the mismanagement of the economy. Slobodan Milosevic's term as

President expires this year. To hold on to power he needs to bend the political system even further in his favour.

□ Montenegro: when Montenegro voted to join Yugoslavia in 1918, the vote was evenly split between pro-Yugoslavs (so-called "whites") and nationalists ("greens"). The Montenegrins, who number about 615,000 and were once loyal soldiers for Mr Milosevic, are heading for another white-green showdown.

□ Romania: in slightly better shape than its neighbours with relatively low unemployment of 15 per cent among a population of 4.8 million — but it remains an uneasy presence in the Balkans. The

regime continues to aim for a de facto partition of Bosnia. Elections this year could lead to serious unrest.

□ Macedonia: has an unemployment rate of 50 per cent among a population of about two million, but has managed to bring down inflation from 3,000 per cent in 1993 to around 3 per cent. The sacrifices have been tolerated because of respect for Kiril Gligorov, the President.

Talks on the EU's eastward expansion are supposed to start within six months of the conclusion of the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam this summer. To

disguise the fact that Eastern

Europe is already a region of two or even three classes, these negotiations are supposed to start with all candidate states. But this is a whitewash. The facts are clear: a century after the Ottoman Empire was presented as the sick man of Europe, the southeast of the Continent now has a ward full of patients.

□ Reforms delayed: Gyula Horn, Hungary's Socialist Prime Minister, said the wave of mass unrest in Serbia and Bulgaria was a result of Governments' delaying democratic reforms. (Reuters)

Letters, page 21

Sofia unions join drive to bring down Socialists

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN SOFIA

BULGARIAN opposition leaders launched more strikes and demonstrations yesterday in an attempt to topple the Socialist Government and force fresh elections.

The stepped-up strike action came as European diplomats said that Sofia would be "bankrupt by the end of the month" unless a currency stabilisation programme were adopted with the backing of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) sparked off the crisis last week by demanding elections for a new Government to negotiate fiscal reform with the IMF and halt the disastrous slide of the lev, which has slumped to a tenth of its value against the dollar this time last year.

Georgi Parvanov, leader of the Socialists — the former Communists — said the Government was willing to talk about the timing of new elections, not due until the end of next year. But he said that, despite eight successive days of protests, the Socialists had been democratically elected in 1994 and were entitled to form a new administration after

Zhan Videvov, the Prime Minister, resigned last month over the economic crisis.

Diplomats said the newly elected anti-communist President, the UDF's Petar Stoyanov — who takes office next Sunday — might have no choice but to appoint as Prime Minister the nominee of the Socialists, Nikolai Dobrev, the Interior Minister. He is regarded as an unreconstructed Communist apparatchik, and his appointment would spark a further angry explosion.

What began as a political manoeuvre by the UDF is turning into a dramatic expression of public fury over rampant inflation and dwindling purchasing power. The Byzantine complexities of Bulgarian politics count for little on the streets, where what matters is that bread and milk are hard to find.

Many of the anti-communist demonstrators, chanting and singing outside the parliament yesterday were students: an echo of the 1989 overthrow of the old Communist order. But most of the protesters were elderly men and women muffled up against the cold.

The predominant mood is



A Bulgarian bus passenger shows his support for students whose demonstration in Sofia yesterday had brought traffic to a standstill

one of despair — that eight years after the fall of communism the country is stricken by misery and poverty, rather than prosperity and security.

Near the parliament, the scene of clashes between protesters and riot police at the weekend, drably dressed street sellers stood in the debris of their stalls yesterday trying to sell passers-by newspapers, soap, cigarettes and bric-a-brac, the pathetic remains of an incipient capitalism that has never quite

taken off. On a muddy side street, I watched young and old alike queuing with enamel bowls for bread and a few inches of thin soup, ladled out by priests in the gloomy interior of an Orthodox church. A number of Western embassies have also started up soup kitchens.

Despite a veneer of neon-lit private shops and cafés, private enterprise has made few inroads in the key industrial sectors, with 90 per cent of the economy still in state hands,

and corruption involving former Communist officials is said to be rife.

"Bulgaria is a small country," one economic analyst said, "and it has been buffeted by the great events of our time — the fall of communism, the Gulf War, and the Bosnian crisis. It lost vital trade with Russia and Iraq and lost \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) by observing the United Nations sanctions against Serbia."

Stella, a mother standing with two children outside the

gold-domed cathedral near the baroque parliament, said: "We used to be the Geneva of the Soviet bloc. We were famous for our wine, our fruit, our skiing resorts. We should never have put the Communists back in power. Even television has gone back to its bad old ways and is not telling us the truth."

The Socialists retort that Bulgaria's economic collapse is partly due to a run on capital, with the country's new "get-rich-quick" business elite

transferring funds unchecked to tax havens abroad. Zhelev, the anti-communist President who will shortly hand over to Mr Stoyanov, said comparisons between Bulgaria and Serbia were mistaken because Serbian demonstrators were demanding democracy, whereas Bulgarians were protesting against poverty and crime.

Union leaders said that if the Socialists did not step down, they would organise a nationwide strike next week.

Civil war fears mar Belgrade 'carnival'

FROM ANTHONY LOVY
IN BELGRADE

"CATCHING the rhythm", Belgrade demonstrators call their instrumental protest. Yet though the Serbian capital rattled last night to what was probably the largest and noisiest demonstration yet, the carnival atmosphere had an underlying tension.

A leaked report of the minutes of a meeting last Friday of President Milosevic's inner circle, published in the Serb newspaper *Nasa Borba* yesterday, suggests that the party may be over for the city's peaceful pro-democracy supporters who gathered last night to welcome in the Orthodox Christian new year.

"We have a good nose for the atmosphere here and right now the smell suggests that in the next few days something very ugly is going to happen," said Slobodan Vukasovic, an MP and spokesman for the Democratic Party, one of the three parties that form the Zajedno opposition coalition.

"Notes from a special source taken from a crisis meeting of the highest SPS [ruling Socialist party] officials showed that the Government will not give up on its stance without violence ... and has agreed to use police forces against the demonstrators before growing social unrest combines with political dissatisfaction." He added: "It could even be the beginning of a civil war. It's that bad."

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Supreme Court weighs delay of Clinton sex case

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A tense, one-hour sitting, the US Supreme Court yesterday heard both sides of the case of William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones, a sexual harassment suit which raises fundamental questions about the power of the presidency, as well as threatening to be highly embarrassing for Mr Clinton.

On the basis of yesterday's questioning — 30 minutes for each side — the court's nine judges will decide whether to allow Mrs Jones's sexual harassment suit to proceed while Mr Clinton is in the White House. Mrs Jones alleges that in 1991, when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee, he enticed her into a hotel room and made unwanted advances. Mr Clinton denies the allegations.

The court is not considering the merits of Mrs Jones's case, but simply the constitutional question of whether a president should have to face civil lawsuits unrelated to his presidency while he is in office.

Mr Clinton's lawyers argue that if the case proceeds, it will

trigger a flood of opportunistic, politically-motivated lawsuits against presidents. Mrs Jones's lawyers counter that "if you believe the President, then we have a monarchy; we have a king. If you believe Paula Jones, then we have public servants that remain accountable for their own personal, private conduct."

The court's judgment is due



Jones: alleges Clinton made advances

by June, but in theory it could decide within weeks. Although the present judges give the court a conservative slant, its verdict is considered extremely hard to predict. If it appears likely to rule in Mrs Jones's favour, the President's lawyers are expected to try to reach a settlement.

During the hearing, the court's nine judges, handicapped by the shortage of precedents, questioned Mr Clinton's lawyers closely on why he did not have time to attend. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked Mr Clinton's lawyers how they would argue if the case was one of child custody, where time was critical.

The case has reached the Supreme Court because Mr Clinton has appealed to it to overturn the judgment of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that it should go ahead provided that the judge was "sensitive" to the President's need to carry out his public duties.

The Supreme Court, whose judges are appointed for life by the President with Senate



Protesters at the Supreme Court show their support for Paula Jones as judges consider whether her case could be heard while Mr Clinton is President

approval, is designed to be a check on the power of both the presidency and Congress. While the court was in session, 30 demonstrators braved below-freezing temperatures to wave placards proclaiming "Give Paula her day", "President or King?" and "Zippergate".

A man dressed in a furry white duck costume paraded with the sign "Stop ducking responsibility, Mr President" while a troupe calling itself "Five Flashers for Clinton", dressed in mackintoshes, shoes and socks, held a banner warning that "an accused sexual predator is at large in this neighbourhood, residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue". After the hearing, Gilbert Davis, Mrs Jones's lawyer, said: "Justice delayed is justice denied." Joseph Cannarilli, her second lawyer, fiercely attacked women's groups for hypocri-

sy, failing to support Mrs Jones because they regarded Mr Clinton as sympathetic to their causes. Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's lawyer, would say only, "I think it's time to be circumspect."

Exposing President, page 20

Peru siege rebels shoot at police as 'warning' in war of nerves

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

TUPAC AMARU rebels, holding 74 people hostage in the Japanese Ambassador's mansion in Lima, sparked panic yesterday when they ran out into the walled garden and fired about a dozen shots in the direction of police posts.

Policemen, posted all around the compound, dived for cover, but refrained from firing back. The gunfire was heard just before midday, when the Red Cross had left after delivering daily consignment of food and water for the hostages. Michel Minning, the Red Cross representative, returned to the mansion and was able to confirm that none of the hostages was injured.

The burst of gunfire was the heaviest of its kind since the Marxist rebels took over the mansion on December 17 to demand the release of their jailed comrades. Television footage showed two heavily armed rebels, with grenades strapped to their bodies and wearing bullet-proof vests, firing in all directions around the compound. "We heard at least 12 gunshots coming in our direction, but they appeared to be a provocation rather than an attempt to hit at specific targets," a policeman on the scene said.

In two previous incidents, a lone rebel patrolling the walled garden at night had fired shots. Infra-red television cameras had caught him running in and out of the mansion as well as shooting towards police posts.

As the siege draws into its fourth week nerves are fraying. The rebels are making renewed attempts to draw attention to their demands, which so far have been ignored by President Fujimori's Government.

Red Cross workers said the rebels had stated that the shots had been meant as a "warning" to the Government. Yesterday's shooting spree came after what appears to be the breakdown of dialogue.

Expectations of an end to

the siege had been raised earlier when the Government said its chief negotiator would hold a second face-to-face meeting with Nestor Cerpa Carrión, the rebel leader. But that was cancelled after the rebels reiterated their demand that 440 of their imprisoned comrades be freed.

Lima was not ready to talk on those terms. A spokesman said the Government proposed the setting up of a "commission of guarantors" to start talks about a "possible peaceful solution".

A Western envoy said: "The Government is ready to let this drag on as a war of nerves and see who breaks first."



Messer: alleged sadistic attacks by male cadets

Harassed women march out of Citadel

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

TWO of the four women cadets admitted to the Citadel, the tough South Carolina military college, have dropped out, alleging "criminal, sadistic and disgusting" harassment.

Kim Messer and Jeanie Mentavlos enrolled last August when the school changed its admissions policy.

They say they were sprayed with nail polish remover and set on fire, that face cleanser was put in their mouths, and that they were shoved around with rifles.

Neither Miss Messer nor Miss Mentavlos was injured in the incidents, which emerged in December. According to the Citadel, 11 cadets had been charged with rule violations. Punishment could range from marching tours to expulsion.

In 1993 Shannon Faulkner, admitted under court order, became its first female cadet, only to drop out during the first week of classes in 1995 citing stress and isolation.

The Citadel began admitting women last year after the US Supreme Court ruled that single-sex education at publicly funded military colleges was unconstitutional. On joining, Miss Messer gave an interview calling Miss Faulkner "unmotivated, undetermined and physically unfit". In contrast, she had spent six weeks at a Reserve Officers' Training Corps camp.

Despite an assurance that the Citadel is improving security, they will not return. "While I might be physically safe on campus, I would not be welcome," Miss Messer says.

Old pets' home will come up to scratch

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

AMILLION-DOLLAR retirement home for pets — complete with scratching posts, sunbathing rooms and kind-to-paws heated floors — is to be built in New York.

The pet's nursing home, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, will provide old-age care for faithful family animals. The regime will include climbing ledges, free rubber balls and gentle, twice-daily walks.

To satisfy "feline residents", as a brochure describes them, a greenhouse-style sun trap will be reserved for pensioned-off cats, with plenty of window space.

Pet owners from around the world have expressed interest in booking their elderly pets into the Bide-A-Wee Association's "Golden Years" pet's home in Westhampton, Long Island. Building work on the home is expected to begin in a couple of months, and Bide-A-Wee, which already runs pet shelters in Manhattan, hopes to have its new facility open by the autumn.

Provisional fees will be a one-off payment of \$10,000 (£6,300) for any dog or cat, with the proviso that the pets must be at least eight years old — 56 in human terms — and must be judged to be unadoptable.

Bide-A-Wee expects that the majority of customers will be people who are themselves in the autumn of their years and no longer able to look after their four-legged companions. "We had one man who called us whose wife has passed away; he has three pugs, and he does not want them to be separated when he passes away," Elizabeth Cooke, president of Bide-A-Wee, a charitable institution, said.

The \$10,000 fee will cover burial or cremation costs, plus a small headstone in Westhampton's rechristened Pet Memorial Park — animals' answer to Highgate cemetery.

The opening of a pet retirement home appears to reflect a growing disinclination among ageing Americans to ask their young relations to "look after Rex" in their dying wishes. A pet is no longer "for life" but rather "until I die".

Sudan readies troops after Ethiopian raids

Khartoum: The Sudanese Government yesterday prepared public opinion for a military campaign after the army said that Ethiopian forces had attacked two border towns. State radio and television broadcast patriotic songs and poetry, with messages ignoring the Government and attacking Ethiopian "aggression".

The radio said the Osman Digna brigade of the paramilitary People's Defence Forces was preparing to leave for the border towns of Kurmuk and Qassala, 360 miles southeast of the capital. Sudanese rebels say they captured Kurmuk and some army garrisons in Blue Nile Province on Sunday in the first big combined operation by northern and southern opponents of the Khartoum Government. (Reuters)

Quake shakes Cyprus cities

Nicosia: A powerful earthquake off the coast of Cyprus yesterday shook buildings on the island and was also felt in Israel, Lebanon and Egypt. (Michael Theodoulou writes) Office workers in some Cypriot cities rushed into the streets during the 30-second tremor, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. Experts said the impact of the quake, which measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, was weakened because it had originated 12½ miles underground and the energy was released in short bursts. The epicentre was about 30 miles southwest of Paphos. In the same area, an earthquake last October that killed one person in Cairo.

Hutu questions witness

Arusha, Tanzania: The UN tribunal on Rwanda took the unprecedented step of granting a remand by an ethnic Hutu, accused of genocide, to cross-examine the first prosecution witness directly. Jean-Paul Akayesu, the former mayor of Rwanda's Taba commune, pointedly tried to undermine the credibility of the witness, known only as "K" to protect her identity. She told the court that he had personally ordered the hacking to death of eight Tutsis. Mr Akayesu, 43, has pleaded not guilty to charges of genocide. (Reuters)

Yeltsin's wife in hospital

Moscow: Naina Yeltsin, the wife of the Russian President, joined her husband in the Central Clinical Hospital, suffering from what the Kremlin described as an infection. (Robin Lodge writes) Sergei Yestrzhemsky, the presidential spokesman, said Mrs Yeltsin's condition was not serious and that she had been to see her husband, who is stable with pneumonia, several times since being admitted. In August, Mrs Yeltsin, 64, underwent surgery on her kidneys.

Algerian rebels kill 19

Algiers: An armed group slit the throats of 14 people in T'ebit village 30 miles south of here, sticking some victims' heads on stakes. In a nearby village, five young women who refused to cover their heads were "judged", then killed. The attacks, confirmed by security forces, were the latest in a wave of terror marking Saturday's fifth anniversary of a military-led coup that scrapped Muslim-won elections. (AP)

Fjord vehicles in pile-up

Copenhagen: A Dane whose car went through ice trying to cross a frozen fjord borrowed a four-wheel drive vehicle to haul it out, but that also went through the ice. So did a tractor he then borrowed — and then another borrowed tractor. The national rescue service eventually did the trick after seven hours, the *Berlingske Tidende* newspaper reported. (AP)

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Greek Cypriot vow on missiles eases tension

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RAUF DENKTAS, the Turkish Cypriot leader, last night welcomed confirmation by President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, that Russian anti-aircraft missiles would not be deployed on the divided island for at least 16 months.

But he rejected an assessment by Carey Cavanaugh, the US envoy, that the crisis was over. Greek Cypriot officials said the missile delay left ample time to achieve an overall solution to the long-running Cyprus problem, but that they would take delivery of the

missiles in the summer of 1998 if there was no progress.

European diplomats said this showed that the Greek Cypriot Government still viewed the missiles as a bargaining chip. They said that continuing tensions would make it very difficult for the international community to help to bring about a Cyprus settlement this year.

The Belgian Government also confirmed that Turkey was negotiating to buy surplus Belgian and Dutch surface-to-air missile systems from a French company.

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Home alone



As workers we are like bees and our instinct is to hive, says Giles Coren

Working from home was going to be the social revolution of the 1990s. A combination of factors — better and cheaper home computers, modems and faxes, fibre-optic technology — was going to make it easier. Everything from air pollution to sexual harassment were going to make it desirable. And business fashion was going to make it inevitable.

It has begun to happen, and the deluded workers who remain in the office are fewer, more miserable, more tired, more stressed, more ill. Down-sizing, rightsizing, outsourcing has sent us scattering to the green belt to rear nuclear families, keep dogs, bake bread, and file our wage-earning efforts down telephone lines.

It sounded like a dream lifestyle. Every consideration was catered for. Except one: loneliness.

Human beings like to bustle. They like to fidget and fidget, and grumble and gossip. They are gregarious by nature, and while good friends and family are important, it is the wide cast of passing acquaintances and low-grade office enemies that keep us ticking over. We may be social animals, but as workers we are bees, and our instinct is to hive.

"I think we are beginning to see the end of this fashion for moving out to Cornwall with a modem, or setting up a post office in West Wales," says the occupational psychologist Peter Forsyth, of Career Analysts Ltd, which advises people on just such job-changing issues as this. "There was a huge rush out of the office in the heyday of downsizing, back in the early Nineties. Big corporations were laying people off and they were taking their redundancy payments and seeing if it was convenient to set up on their own."

"But the price they paid was loneliness. Suddenly they found they were missing people — those informal chats over coffee, or a sandwich in the canteen. We are a gregarious race and it is part of the human psyche to need interaction with others — both for friendship, and for advantage, which is to say networking."

But surely the home working life must suit some people? "About one fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home," says Mr Forsyth. "We can run a psychometric test that will determine how each person will respond to it. We would be looking for strong independence, indicating high autonomy. Low anxiety is very important, as is imaginativeness and detachment. It is a profile that does not fit many people."

"The big boom in working from home was all a bit of an overreaction," he says. "And it is already coming to an end. As people realise that it was not all it was cracked up to be, the wire circles and other groups are filling up with lonely people, and I anticipate fairly soon doing a lot of work with people, trying to get back into the office."

If further evidence were needed that the boom in working from home is

One fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home. A psychometric test can evaluate each person's response to it

creating a craving for human interaction, look at the swelling memberships of such organisations as the Royal Horticultural Society, which is up to 200,000. Membership of the National Trust has risen 11 per cent in the past six years to 2,269,563. In the same period, membership of the Royal Geographic Society has risen by 30 per cent and the Ramblers Association has seen its ranks increase by 40 per cent.

We are too gregarious to work from home, and our impulse to yammer and distract ourselves is seeing us run to whichever groups will have us, to get our fix of social interaction.

In the village of Bleabury, in Oxfordshire, the writer and publisher Stephen Gaymer, who had moved out from Putney, very quickly missed the buzz of office life, and set up the Home Alone Club with an advertisement in the *Bleabury Bulletin*. Soon he had architects, gardeners, accountants and animators beaming a path to his door, selected on the simple question "do you work with people?" to weed out interlopers. Last month they even had their first Christmas party.

While not everyone is able to enjoy the constructed camaraderie created by

Then there is the Freelancers' Convention, at the swelling membership of such organisations as the Royal Horticultural Society, which is up to 200,000. Membership of the National Trust has risen 11 per cent in the past six years to 2,269,563. In the same period, membership of the Royal Geographic Society has risen by 30 per cent and the Ramblers Association has seen its ranks increase by 40 per cent.

We are too gregarious to work from home, and our impulse to yammer and distract ourselves is seeing us run to whichever groups will have us, to get our fix of social interaction.

"Half the stuff we talk about is general day-to-day gossip, who's in what's out, the rubbish that people in offices take for granted. It is not a necessity in the freelance life, but it is an enhancement — our conversations are a bit useful, too."

While not everyone is able to enjoy

Messrs Gaymer or Wright, most home-alomers find other ways to hive. The number of people eating out has soared and in big cities it is becoming harder and harder to book tables, as spaces are filled by the lonely self-employed getting their weekly fix of humanity. On the way home they leer greedily through office windows, half-dreaming of a grimy nine-to-five, watery tea from a machine and a bouncy boss barking into their ear.

The popularity of gyms and health clubs, night schools, the revival of Tupperware and Anne Summers parties, sad conversational Web sites on the Internet, all testify to the desperation with which the newly dislocated are seeking a little quotidian company to keep themselves ticking over.

When, in 1987, Margaret Thatcher announced that there was no such thing as society, she was wrong. If she said it today, she would be closer to the truth. Each home-alomer who forsakes the office and then grows bored and lonely and sets up an awkward appreciation council to while away the hours, drives another nail into the fabric of modern life. You cannot replace society with societies.

A well-paid and successful job isn't everything, as Catherine Lucas discovered

When Earth comes first, and money second

Lying on the hard, cold ground in my sleeping bag, I gazed up into a dark sky, glittering with stars. It was late, probably three or four in the morning and although my bed was spartan, it was a relief to be in it. The day had begun early. I had cooked breakfast for about 30 people, spent most of the day sitting in a road waiting for something to happen and I had been on watch since midnight, armed with a walkie-talkie.

The past five days had been exactly the same and I was tired, dirty and strangely exhilarated. I was at an Earthfirst camp, in Oregon, protesting against the logging of an area of ancient forest. Earthfirst specialises in on-site direct action protests and all around me people were digging trenches and rigging platforms in an attempt to stop the loggers.

Only a few months before I had been a television producer, living in London, with a wardrobe full of clothes, a salary full of dinner parties and a life made miserable with stress and deadlines. Now, to my surprise, I found myself labelled as an eco-terrorist, using my television skills to try to portray the protest in a favourable light to an extremely hostile local media.

I had had reservations about my job for some time. For a start I knew that it was physically damaging. By the end of every contract I was

would like to die with a degree of clarity and I realised the only way to ensure that was to change the way I lived.

So I finished my contract and, with no definite plans, I told my family and friends that this was my last television job. People told me I was "crazy" and that I was "throwing away my life".

For years I told myself I had no right to complain, that I should be grateful to have a fascinating, well-paid, sought after job. And I was. So I continued to pursue my goal of becoming a successful producer. Yet the doubts lingered and, ironically, what I gained most from the struggle to get to the top was the self-confidence to stop. Once I had proved I could be successful, I no longer needed to go on doing it.

Even so it took a moment of shattering truth to convince me. A project was proving particularly difficult. I had not slept for weeks and one morning as I walked to the office, I suddenly thought "Supposing I died feeling like this?" It might seem extreme, but to me it made perfect sense. I am not dying that worries me, but the state I am in when I go on

doing the things I had drawn on for security evaporated

from my career away". After a while I understood that in some way my decision threatened the status quo and people were really expressing their own fear of change.

Following through with my decision required a major leap of faith, in myself and in the infinite potential of the universe. Over a period of several months the things that I had drawn on for security

forest activist in Oregon. The day I arrived at her house, she got a call saying that a controversial timber sale had been approved by the Forest Service. No one knew when logging would start, but people were gathering to protest and Earthfirst had already set up camp. We drove there immediately.

At the camp I decided to stay for a while seduced by the commitment and passion of the people around me. I soon discovered many of them had once had "respectable" jobs. One was a professor who had felt increasingly isolated from what was really happening; others were former government scientists; there was even a man who'd been a logger.

Although it seems momentous when you are doing it, actually people change career all the time. Ultimately it boils down to whether you will give yourself permission to pursue what you really want from life. And even though it can be frightening and difficult, it is well worth suffering a little discomfort, because there is so much to be gained.

To my surprise a nasty tangle of concerns about money, power and fame presented themselves. It was a shock to realise I had been making choices based on values that were not my own and I began to replace these impostors with something more appropriate. It was hard work and one day I was rescued from despair by an image of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis. It was an inspiration — not only did the butterfly have to struggle for freedom, it also had no choice but to follow its destiny.

Gradually my faith in the Universe was rewarded and life opened up. I had the feeling of being in the right place at the right time and strange coincidences occurred. I went to the Earthfirst camp with my cousin Susie, a

TOMORROW
NIGELLA LAWSON
on working mothers
Plus how to take
a career break

Tony Cardwell swapped teaching for thatching

Out of the classroom and on to the rooftop

The idea of emptying your office desk into a bin bag and heading in a new direction is alluring. We imagine we will be reinvigorated, rejuvenated even, in a new career, and will face life with fresh verve and eagerness.

And yet we seldom do it. Perhaps because there is so little precedent for it, or because we do not know what to do instead, or because we are afraid.

So here is the experience of Tony Cardwell, 38, a Kent thatcher who spent the first 20 years of his professional life as a teacher, before seeing the light in 1983, and heading for the rooftops.

"Not only was teaching not what I had planned to do," Mr Cardwell recalls, "it was also what I had always planned *not* to do. I don't mean to knock the profession. It is a very satisfying and worthwhile life, and dedicated teachers are fine people. It was just that I never intended to do it. I had originally wanted to be a writer, but since I was not prepared to live in a garret with only a crust of bread to eat, I tried my hand at a number of professions."

After Tonbridge School, and a philosophy

degree at Bristol University, Mr Cardwell found career options were not so much about what he wanted from life, as what he did not want.

"I felt no specific calling in

any one direction, but I knew that I wanted to do something creative. At university I played jazz, and there did come an opportunity to join a professional band, which I decided not to do," he says.

After a period spent living in a croft in Scotland, "writing in daylight because there was no electricity", he came to London to work in a publishing house, and realised that living in a big city, and commuting every day, was not what he wanted.

"I was living in a thatched house at that time, and it so happened that the roof needed some attention. I became aware that the Thatching Advisory Service, with whom my roof was insured, was training thatchers and selling them franchises."

Mr Cardwell completed his training and bought a franchise.

"At last I was working from home. It was a lovely

change, and a very pleasant

lifestyle. I had a terrific sense

pigeon shooting. While at first I lived in the school, I soon got married and moved into my own house."

And for the next 20 years all was well. "I was very happy at Bethany, though for perhaps the last ten years the idea of getting out had been rumbling around in my mind." By 1983, when his children were in their teens, he felt the time was right to make a change.

"I was living in a thatched house at that time, and it so happened that the roof needed some attention. I became aware that the Thatching Advisory Service, with whom my roof was insured, was training thatchers and selling them franchises."

"When I do a bit of thatching, or play jazz, I feel that I have arrived. A bit late in life, perhaps, but I'm there."

of freedom and found the creative life I had been looking for." But there was a catch.

"If you have followed a particular way of life for 20 years, surrounded by people who constantly demand your time and attention, and then find yourself working in solitude, above ground level, it can be extremely difficult to adjust."

"I had spent 20 years in an environment where life was governed by the ringing of bells, for the masters as much as the pupils, and everything had been highly regimented. Suddenly, I was running my own little business, with total freedom of movement. A job pops up, and you go out and do it — travelling around the country working for all sorts of different people."

"I would warn anyone contemplating such a change of careers that there are dangers. You don't go mad or anything, but there are psychological effects. My marriage went over the side in the end. It was not a direct result of the job change, my wife had been utterly supportive in that. What happened ultimately was that I had an affair. It was unforgivable, I know, and I would not have expected my wife to stay with me after that. We separated nine years ago."

Thirteen years into thatching, however,

"there are few regrets.

"Everything in life has invisible and unforeseen consequences. But that shouldn't stop you from following your chosen path. We must all try to fulfil our inner selves in every possible way, and to use our talents as best we can. It was the logical move at the time and I am glad that I did it."

"When I do a bit of thatching, or play jazz, I feel that I have arrived. A bit late in life, perhaps, but I'm there."

GILES COREN

GILL ALLEN



Tony Cardwell, teacher turned thatcher: "I found the creative life I was looking for"

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relationship with Peter van Daan moves from friendship to a new level of intimacy



Anne, left, with her father, Otto, and elder sister, Margot, in 1941 and, right, with Margot. "Peter knows everything; when I said that Margot and I weren't very well informed, he was amazed. He offered to enlighten me, and I gratefully accepted."

is the worst part — I seem to be chasing him. I'm always the one who has to go upstairs; he never comes to me. But that's because of the rooms, and he understands why I object. Oh, I'm sure he understands more than I think.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1944
Last night at eight I was sitting with Peter on his divan and it wasn't long before he put an arm around me. "Why don't we move over a little," I said, "so I won't keep bumping my head against the cupboard."

He moved so far over he was practically in the corner. I slipped my arm under his and across his back, and he put his arm around my shoulder, so that I was nearly engulfed by him. He held me firmly against him, my left side against his chest; my heart had already begun to beat faster, but there was more to come. He wasn't satisfied until my head lay on his shoulder, with his on top of mine. Oh, it was so wonderful. I could hardly talk, my pleasure was too

intense; he caressed my cheek and arm, a bit clumsily, and played with my hair. Most of the time our heads were touching.

I can't tell you, Kitty, the feeling that ran through me. I was too happy for words, and I think he was too.

"At 9.30 we stood up. How I suddenly made the right movement! I don't know, but before we went downstairs, I went down stairs, I went with Father to get water. While we were on the stairs, I said,

"Father, I expect you've gathered that when Peter and I are together, we don't exactly sit at opposite ends of the room. Do you think that's wrong?"

Father paused before answering. "No, I don't think it's wrong. But Anne, when you're living so close together, as we do, you have to be careful."

Sunday morning he called me to him and said, "Anne, I've been thinking about what you said." (Oh, oh, I knew what was coming!) "Here in the Annex it's not such a good idea. I thought you were just friends. Is Peter in love with you?"

"Of course not," I answered.

"Well, you know I understand both of you. But you must be the one to show restraint; don't go upstairs so often, don't encourage him more than you can help. In matters like these, it's always the man who takes the active role, and it's up to the woman to set the drift."

But I like being with Peter. I've said I trust him. I do trust him, and I want to prove it to him, but I'll never be able to stay downstairs out of drift. No, I'm going!

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1944
It's true, Peter loves me, not as a girlfriend, but as a friend. His affection grows day by day, but some mysterious force is holding us back, and I don't know what it is.

Sometimes I think my terrible longing for him was over-exaggerated. But that's not true, because if I'm unable to go to his room for a day or two, I long for him as desperately as I ever did. Peter is kind and good, and yet I can't deny that he's disappointed me in many ways. I especially don't care for his dislike of religion. Still I'm firmly convinced that we'll stick to our agreement never to quarrel.

One of the many questions that have often bothered me is why women have been, and still are, thought to be so inferior to men. It's easy to say it's unfair, but that's not enough for me; I'd really like to know the reason for this great injustice!

In childbirth alone, women commonly suffer more pain, illness and misery than any war hero ever does. And what's her reward for enduring all that pain? She gets pushed aside when she's disgraced by birth, her children soon leave, her beauty is gone. Women, who struggle and suffer pain to ensure the continuation of the human race, make much tougher and more courageous soldiers than all those big-mouthed freedom-fighting heroes put together!

I don't mean to imply that women should stop having children, on the contrary, nature intended them to, and that's the way it should be. What I condemn are our systems of values and the men who don't acknowledge how great, difficult, but ultimately beautiful women's share in society is.

I believe that in the course of the next century the notion that it's a woman's duty to have children will change and make way for the respect and admiration of all women, who bear their

burdens without complaint or a lot of pompous world.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1944
I think about Peter much more than I do Father. I know very well that he was my conquest, and not the other way around. I created an image of him in my mind, pictured him as a quiet, sweet, sensitive boy badly in need of friendship and love. I needed to pour out my heart to a living person. I wanted a friend who would help me find my way again. I

accomplished what I set out to do and drew him slowly but surely, towards me. When I finally got him to be my friend, it automatically developed into an intimacy that, when I think about it now, seems outrageous. We talked about the most private things, but we haven't yet touched upon the things closest to my heart. I still can't make head or tail of Peter. Is he superficial, or is it shyness that holds him back, even with me? But putting all that aside, I made one mistake: I used intimacy to get

closer to him, and in doing so, I ruled out other forms of friendship. He longs to be loved, and I can see he's beginning to like me more with each passing day. Our time together leaves him feeling satisfied, but just makes me want to start all over again. I never broach the subjects I long to bring out into the open. I forced Peter, more than he realises, to get close to me, and now he's holding on for dear life. I honestly don't see any effective way of shaking him off and

getting him back on his own two feet. I soon realised he could never be a kindred spirit, but still tried to help him break out of his narrow world and expand his youthful horizons.

● Taken from *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler, to be published by Viking on February 6, price £16. ©The Anne Frank Fonds, Basle, Switzerland 1991, English translation by Susan Massot ©Doubleday 1995.



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Should the President be exposed?

Gary McDowell on the Supreme Court and Clinton v Paula Jones

Gladstone once described the American Constitution as "the most wonderful work ever struck off at any time by the brain and purpose of man". Later this year, Bill Clinton will find out if he agrees. Some time before the end of June, the Supreme Court of the United States will decide the case of *William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones*. The oral arguments were heard on Monday. The issue is whether a President is immune from civil lawsuits while in office.

This suit is one of the most salacious ever to involve a President, either before or after leaving office. Mrs Jones has claimed that while an employee of the State of Arkansas, she was spied by the then Governor, approached by his bodyguard who informed her that the Governor said she "made his knees knock", and escorted to a room at the Excelsior Hotel by the dutiful drone. What happened next is what is to be settled in the sexual harassment suit.

According to Mrs Jones, Mr Clinton groped and fondled her, and finally dropped his trousers, exposed himself and invited her to "kiss it". She declined, she claims, and left the room. Mr Clinton's only response to the allegations has been that he does not remember doing such things. She insists she can prove it in court by describing certain "distinguishing marks" on the President's private parts. If the case goes ahead, it will eclipse even the O.J. Simpson trial as a cultural landmark.

Unfortunately for the plaintiff, the Supreme Court is not concerned with those interesting details. Its focus is on whether the Constitution provides presidential immunity from civil suits. Clinton argues that a President besieged by lawsuits would be unable to carry out the duties of his office. Yet Mrs Jones's competing claim that plaintiffs deserve their day in court, regardless of who the defendant might be, is also well rooted in the American legal tradition. Justice delayed may indeed be justice denied.

The Supreme Court might come down either way. Even though the justices are political creatures, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, their life tenure means they are beholden to no one. As President Harry Truman once put it, "once you put a man on the court, he ceases to be your friend".

Several of the justices have well-known views on the importance of an independent and energetic executive within the Constitution's scheme of separated powers. Ironically, they are the justices appointed by the last two Republican Presidents, Reagan and Bush. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas may well conclude that the inherent constitutional powers of the presidency demand that Mrs Jones's lawsuit be postponed. If these three stick together, as they

The issue
is whether
a President
is immune
to lawsuits

However, there is a twist. Of those who were on the Supreme Court in 1974, only Chief Justice Rehnquist remains. And in the Nixon case, he excused himself because he had previously served as Assistant Attorney-General for legal counsel in the first Nixon Administration.

The President has a great deal to worry about, however. Clinton v Jones is decided. That is but one of many ethical troubles hanging over the White House. Judge Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating who is Whitewater (which now includes several other areas of inquiry), is likely to begin issuing new indictments at any moment, possibly reaching as high as the First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Moreover, the allegations of campaign finance irregularities look increasingly serious. And even if the Supreme Court should agree that the President is entitled to immunity from lawsuits while in office, Mrs Jones is not going to go away: she will eventually have her day in court and the world will finally have a better idea of what took place in the Excelsior Hotel back in 1991.

The more enduring question, however, and the most important issue at stake in Clinton v Jones, is whether the presidency will be constitutionally stronger or weaker as a result of the case. The answer could affect the exercise of presidential power and leadership both at home and abroad. The author is director of the Institute of United States Studies in London.

Damn dames

GREASEPAINT is running at the Janus Theatre Group in Peterborough, where they are having to dump Paul Stone, who recently alleged a relationship with Jerry Hayes, MP, from his role as pantomime dame.

Stone, who is said to be buying a flat in London with the proceeds of his newspaper deals, was due to star in *Puss in Boots* next month, having played Widow Scratches in *Sinbad the Sailor* last year.

"I thought I'd better get in touch after all this," he said yesterday, "so I contacted them only to be told I'd been replaced. I think it's a bit naughty but I suppose it's understandable."

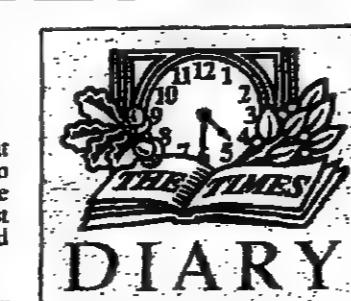
Stone was speaking from the offices of his public relations adviser, Max Clifford, who was recovering from his dust-up on the *Kilroy Show* with the MP Roger Gale.

Clifford, a fit man who plays tennis and swims regularly, had allegedly tried to punch Gale just before the show was due to go on air, although he denies this: "I was just disappointed that the show did not have Jerry Hayes and David Mellor on it so I could argue with them," he said. "And I find Roger

Gale repulsive. Everybody thought I was going to have a go at him and people were trying to pull me back. I was very angry but I just wanted to square up to him and look him in the eye."

• Touring the world with his new film *Romeo and Juliet*, Baz Luhrmann, the Australian director, found himself standing at the

It there any chance of your rejoining the England team, Bishop Sheppard?"



DIARY

back of a cinema preview of his movie in Sydney. Another man stood behind him on the back wall. "Mate you're a bit bored too, eh?" said the man. "I can't stand all this Shakespeare stuff. Didn't want to see it at all. My wife dragged me along." Before a dumbstruck Luhrmann could reply, the man had wandered out.

Losing track

PERSISTENCE overcame prudence in Denmark the other day when a man sank four vehicles trying to cross a frozen ford. First off, his car went through the ice at Augustenburg, 120 miles southwest of Copenhagen.

The water was shallow, so he was able to get out. Then he tried to pull the car out with a four-wheel-drive vehicle, but that promptly

sank too. He tried again, this time with a tractor, but it stuck too. Farmers were obviously keen now to lend him tractors, so summoning another hero to onto the ice as well. Guess what? The ice cracked and this tractor was also stymied. National rescue services spent seven hours undoing the mess.

Wrong one

HARD LUCK case of the day is Jane Winder, the director of One World Action, a Third World development agency founded by

Michael Bates loyalist

Glennys Kinnock. Winder has misdirected her CV to a Liberal Democrat MP. "Dear Don Foster," she writes, "though clearly meaning to address Derek Foster, the senior Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, rather than Don Foster, the Lib Dem MP for Bath. Brenda Dean has advised me to send you a copy of my CV. When Labour is elected I hope that there will be opportunities for supporters to serve on public bodies and would be very glad if my name could be considered." So much then for all of Labour's pious criticisms of the Tories for appointing sympathisers to their quangos.

• My report yesterday of how Darcey Bussell danced thrillingly at the Royal Opera House on Saturday despite suffering the flu had her cast in Swan Lake, not The Sleeping Beauty, as was the case. The flu has clearly got to PHS too.

Pole vault

EAGEREST beaver among the ministerial class has to be Michael Bates, MP, who was recently appointed to replace David Willets as Paymaster General. When asked what he would like in the way of decoration for his office, he asked for a Union Jack on a pole, so he can sit in front of it in traditional African dictator fashion. The



Jemima and Sulaiman

Department of National Heritage supplied him with the ornament.

• A mere two weeks after arriving in his native country, and six weeks after his arrival in the world, Master Sulaiman, the son of Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith, has already visited his local barber in Lahore. In keeping with Islamic custom, his head was shaved last week at a ceremony in the family home.

P.H.S

Europe's Eastern sceptics

Anatole Kaletsky
says integration
has failed before

What is the future of Europe: integration or disintegration? Over the weekend I was asked to address this question at the Central European University in Budapest, before an audience of 60 newspaper editors and proprietors from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Naturally, I objected to the way the question was phrased. Are integration and disintegration the only possibilities for Europe? There are plenty of other rhetorical pairings: centralisation or decentralisation; uniformity or diversity; rigidity or flexibility. Or let us try something more dramatic: imperial oppression versus national liberation.

A shocked murmur went round the audience when I spoke these words. These people had been fighting for generations for national liberation — not only from the Soviet Union, but before that from the Nazis, the Habsburgs, the Ottomans, the Kaisers, the Mongols and the Tatars. The European Union is infinitely more benign than any of the previous efforts to unite all or part of Europe. It is liberal, prosperous, peaceful and more or less democratic. But does this imply that people who have fought for centuries for the right to call themselves Hungarians, Latvians, Poles or, for that matter, Frenchmen or Germans, will suddenly start to think of themselves as Europeans?

In Western Europe the answer is clearly no. France, Italy and Spain, to say nothing of Britain and the Scandinavian countries, have fought tooth and nail for their national interests in Brussels. Even in Germany, where pan-European idealism is the norm in political rhetoric, the EU has been presented as a natural extension of Germany's benign ideals: an orderly, regulated, federal system of social partnership, closely modelled on the post-war German State.

If this is familiar enough, but what surprised me in Budapest was the growing confidence of Central Europeans. They too now feel that they have legitimate national aspirations and can demand adjustments; from the EU, to suit them. Countries where unregulated small businesses are providing nearly all of the new jobs, and economic growth, are suddenly starting to worry about the costs of complying with Brussels' regulations. The East Europeans are disillusioned by Western Europe's economic sclerosis. They contrast Europe's abject failure to bring peace to Bosnia with America's success.

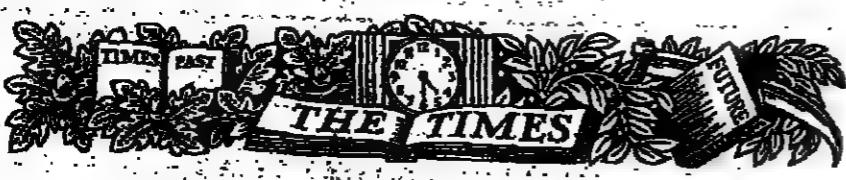
Europe — and Germany in particular — no longer looks like the shining beacon of hope. And now that Germany is making it ever clearer that it will keep Eastern Europe out of the agricultural single market in order to protect Bavarian farmers, the Hungarians and Poles are gaining the confidence to say that they will have full EU membership or none at all.

As soon as the question of joining Europe becomes a matter of cost-benefit analysis rather than historical inevitability, much bigger questions follow. If EU membership no longer looks necessary for national survival, is it as desirable as everyone had assumed? If countries like Poland, Hungary and even tiny Slovenia begin to feel they might be able to survive as independent nations in a peaceful Eurasian continent, why should they subsume themselves once again in a superstate? Perhaps they would do better by sheltering under the Nato-military umbrella, negotiating global arrangements for free trading and then seeking their fortunes in the wider world?

If the rapidly growing countries of Eastern Europe, which have contributed as much to our common culture as any other continental region, are likely to remain outside the core of Franco-German integration, there may be huge implications for other peripheral regions of Europe: Scandinavia, the Mediterranean and the British Isles. Britain, in particular, might do both West and Eastern Europe a favour by standing aside from Franco-German integration, and so adding to the influence, power and the average prosperity of the European periphery to which it historically and geographically belongs.

That English is now clearly and irrevocably the *lingua franca* of Eastern as well as Western Europe, adds another powerful dimension to the case for Britain to welcome the creation of a flexible, diverse and deregulated European periphery around the more highly ordered and integrated Franco-German core.

It is probably now pointless for Britain, Poland or any other country to try to impede or dissuade the Germans, French and Belgians from creating a tightly organised European superstate. But the countries that stand back from European integration need not deny their European cultures or turn their backs on Europe. Anyone who has studied calculus — one of the unquestionable and universal achievements of European culture — should know that disintegration is not the only antonym of integration. In calculus the opposite of integration is differentiation. In history, as in mathematics, both these processes are difficult but largely enriching.



A BILL TOO FAR

Judges, not chief constables, should safeguard rights

Moderation in the pursuit of justice can be a virtue. Few politicians have been as energetic in overhauling the criminal justice system as Michael Howard but his zeal in the right cause has led him into error. Although the most clamorous opposition has been directed at the Crime (Sentences) Bill, which received its third reading yesterday, it is a different piece of legislation that is flawed. Mr Howard's proposals for mandatory minimum sentences are a measured response to public disquiet with the prevalence of violent crime and the punishment dispensed by the courts. A similar determination to balance the scales of justice after years skewed in favour of the criminal is held justly by the Police Bill. It does not. The Bill, in its present form, trespasses too heavily on British traditions of liberty. It must not pass, unamended, into law.

The Bill will allow the police to force entry and install surveillance equipment in order to gather evidence — to "bug and barge". The extension of similar powers to law enforcement agencies in America significantly helped in the fight against racketeering. Such powers could, properly exercised, help to combat organised crime here. Without proper guarantees, however, these powers could be abused by a police force tempted to stretch the law too far in its desire to ensnare the criminal.

By allowing senior police officers to authorise forced entry without application to a judge, the Bill unacceptably erodes the division between the pursuer of the criminal and the upholder of justice. Officers under pressure to apprehend are bound to be less sensitive to the rights of the individual than a judge. The retrospective scrutiny promised is not enough. The arguments for issuing a warrant should be tested in front of a judge, not run under a chief constable's nose.

The Bill's defenders maintain that the legislation simply puts on a statutory basis a practice already commonplace among government agencies but governed only by executive discretion. That is not so. The

Police Bill would render evidence admissible which, if acquired by similar means at the moment, could not be used in open court. If evidence gained by such exceptional means is to be admitted in court rather than reviewed in private, then the propriety of acquiring it covertly should be considered by a judge, not decided by the police.

Those who support the Bill also argue, in its defence, that the operational good sense of a senior officer is to be preferred to the wisdom of a judge. They maintain that courts in the past have not exerted themselves to check the police's appetite for acquiring evidence by all available means. Since the Police and Criminal Evidence Act allowed officers to request the handing over of journalistically acquired material, such as footage of rioters, the courts have routinely acquiesced in police applications.

An argument betrays a misunderstanding of the rule of law, by looking at outcomes not processes. It also misses the main point. The very fact of having to apply to a judge deters police officers from indiscriminate applications. Even if judges are inclined to extend the benefit of the doubt to the police, the act of asking should ensure that the police attempt to exercise their powers sparingly.

The Bill is flawed not only in delegating to chief police officers the authority to exercise powers so intrusive but also in allowing them such broad grounds in justification. As drafted, the Bill permits the police to deploy these powers in fighting "serious" crime. But it defines what is serious in a manner so loose as to invite abuse. Parliament must ensure that the Bill reaches the statute book with the nature of the crimes which justify such exceptional powers carefully delineated so the courts can ensure that measures designed to pursue criminal Napoleonics are not disproportionately deployed. The power, resourcefulness and malice of organised criminals require an imaginative response but should not provoke an excessive one. The Police Bill is, as it stands, a Bill too far.

ANGOLA'S AGONY

The prospects of improvement are real but slim

The visit by Diana, Princess of Wales, to Angola comes at a critical moment in this devastated country's attempt to end its long agony. In nine days, Angola is due to form a government of national reconciliation to bring together the MPLA Government of President dos Santos and Unita, the former rebel group led by Jonas Savimbi. Yesterday Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, flew to Luanda to brief the Government on the meeting last week between Mr. Savimbi and President Mandela — the first time the guerrilla leader has agreed to hold talks with the new rulers of the country that used to provide him with arms and covert support. And in the next few days there are hopes that some 70 Unita MPs, elected in the 1992 election, will finally take their seats in the Luanda Parliament.

This flurry of diplomatic activity has been bolstered by outsiders. Britain has promised to do what it can to bolster the fragile peace. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, met Mr dos Santos last week. The European Union has offered \$17 million in humanitarian aid. And the Princess has, by her visit, drawn attention to the scourge of some 12 million landmines, more in number than the total population of Angola, which maim about 25 people a day and have ruined huge tracts of valuable farming land.

Yet the chances for peace remain slim. The abiding distrust between the Government and Unita led to the breakdown of the earlier ceasefire. Mr Savimbi, who still dreams of absolute power, was largely to blame for the

fighting after 1992, when he refused to accept the election results. The conflict has laid waste entire towns, with hundreds of thousands of civilians dying of starvation or from bombardment. Mr Savimbi has good reason to fear that he and his supporters would be massacred in Luanda. Darkening the outlook further is the incompetence, venality and corruption of the dos Santos Government. No figures are available, but aid agencies and United Nations observers reckon that the President and his cronies have embezzled at least \$4 billion of the country's oil income.

This bleak picture may soon get worse, for the UN is due to pull out its 6,600-strong force next month. Almost all Angolans forecast a rapid return to civil war, especially if there are no elections to underpin a new government of national unity with popular legitimacy. The UN operation has achieved a measure of stability in the past two years. Currently the largest in the world and including Britons in the verification and ceasefire observation units, it is leaving because it has run out of money. Only a small token force will remain — too small to be of use and depressingly similar to the original UN mission. Without stability, mine clearance cannot easily go ahead, nor can landless farmers be fed or employed. Until that happens, the economic and political ruin of a potentially rich country will remain incurable. If the UN aborts its mission half-done, it might as well have washed its hands of Angola in the first place. The country's suffering will continue.

LOBSTER CHECKOUT

What happens when the claws go scampering down the aisle?

Supermarkets are democratic benefits. They pile the luxuries of the world into the plastic bags of the shopper. But, in the case of lobsters, supermarkets are tackling a luxury that is problematical as well as rare. Their debate about whether to sell live lobsters makes animal welfare campaigners see red.

Although banned by Moses, probably on hygienic grounds for a nomadic desert tribe, the lobster has been a delicacy for many ages and cultures. But the unhygienic danger of a bad lobster makes cooks recommend that it be bought live and then killed. Since Mrs Beeton they have insisted that lobsters be plunged alive into boiling water. "Choose those that are full of motion, which is an indication of their freshness."

This recipe was practicable in great kitchens and for less squeamish societies. Roman gourmets added spice to their meal by watching lobster and red mullet change colour in their death throes. But this more sensitive age rightly deplores cruelty to creatures, even those which, because of cannibalistic tendencies, cannot be farmed. Modern kitchens are ill-equipped with fish-kettles and weights to keep their lids on. And cooks are distressed by the turbulence made by a lobster and the hiss of air escaping from its carapace in what sounds like a scream.

A humane method of cooking lobster would ease the tender conscience while still gratifying the taste. The proposal that lobsters be rendered insensible in a slowly heating sauna raises the question whether anybody would prefer

to be fried slowly rather than plunged into boiling oil. The British Universities Federation for Animal Welfare recommends freezing lobsters to death before boiling. A celebrated Oxford professor has devoted time and skill to inventing a painless lobster killer. This would work, fittingly, by pincers made to electrocute the central nervous system of the lobster. The difficulty in less expert kitchens would be the same as with trussing by skewer. Amateurs, separated from the methods that bring their food to the supermarket, would not know where to locate the lobster's nervous system, and might lack the resolution to make the plunge.

And will lobsters in the supermarket have a "kill-by" date? On which antenna will their bar codes be marked? How will the checkout cashier cope with an item as full of crustacean motion as recommended? And what panic will break out when the ragged claws escape to scuttle down the aisle? At least there is no prospect of meat being sold on the hoof in the supermarket, yet.

When asked why he walked a lobster on a blue ribbon in the Palais Royal, Gérard de Nerval replied: "I have a taste for lobsters. They are peaceful, serious creatures. They know the secrets of the sea. And they don't bark." Shoppers with a less refined taste for lobsters may soon find them in Waitrose as well as the Palais Royal. But those who prefer to turn a blind eye to their diet should get an assistant to do the deed. This will still be done by plunging the lobster into boiling water. But behind the counter,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Party loyalties and the Police Bill

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, and others

Sir, The Police Bill now before the House of Lords (letters, January 5 and 10) makes provision to regulate the use of intrusive surveillance techniques by the police and Customs. Clause 91 (1) provides: "No entry on or interference with property or wireless telephony shall be unlawful if it is authorised under this section."

An authorising officer — normally a chief constable — may authorise any such action if he or she thinks that it is likely to be of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime and that the objective cannot reasonably be achieved by other means. There is a wide definition of "serious crime" which refers, for instance, to conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Police and Customs bugging operations are presently governed by administrative arrangements of dubious validity, so, in principle, statutory regulation is welcome. But the exercise of the power needs firm and clear safeguards.

The most obvious safeguard is that the power should be authorised only by a judge and not by a police officer, however senior.

That is why Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank (letter, January 10) moved an amendment in the House of Lords, requiring an exercise of the power to be authorised by a circuit judge.

We believe that this part of the Bill, if it were allowed to stand as now worded, represents a serious threat to the liberties of the citizens of Britain.

We believe that this is not just a party issue. Many Labour peers were unhappy that they were instructed not to support Lord Rodgers' amendment. We hope that the strength of criticism of Clause 91 and its obvious inconsistency with the European Convention on Human Rights will persuade the Labour leadership to change its position.

Many individual peers taking the Conservative whip will recognise that Clause 91, as it now stands, runs counter to the best traditions of their party. We hope that both they and the cross-bench will support the amendment.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER (President),
DAVID IVE (Chairman),
WILLIAM GOODHART,
Liberal Democrat Lawyers
Association,
26 Eriske Hill, NW1.
January 10.

Immigration rules

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State,
Home Office

Sir, Your correspondents Ruth Gledhill and Michael Gove (January 10) reflect earlier reports suggesting that there had been a change of policy with regard to Scientologists who may seek to enter the United Kingdom as ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

I should like to clarify the position. There has been no change. The Government's position remains as stated by the then Home Secretary in 1980. Scientology is not regarded as a religion for the purposes of the immigration rules. Scientologists will not therefore qualify under those provisions of the immigration rules relating to ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

Yours sincerely,
TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
January 10.

Public grief

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, Murders of young people are, unfortunately, not rare in our society and the suffering of parents is unimaginable to most of us.

I do, however, wonder if it really is necessary for those truly wracked people's grief to be put on public display by the police (report, January 9). They do not need to undergo this ordeal for all of us to help find the killers. Humanity surely demands help for the grieving, not for them to be on public show as the terrible nightmare engulfs them.

Your obedient servant,
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK,
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.

Albanian opportunity

From Mr Donald J. Stewart

Sir, I find it difficult to reconcile Misha Glenny's assertion (article, January 3) that Albania, *inter alia*, suffers under the arbitrary rule of a political and economic mafia with my own recent experience in that country.

Over the past 18 months I have assisted the governing Democratic Party of Albania with its election preparations, attending meetings in many parts of the country, some of

Diet fads, from good sense to 'bumbling quackishness'

From Dr Julia Ellis and
Professor Paul J. Ciclitira

Sir, Gudrun Jonsson ("I lost weight and cleared my mind", Health, January 6) advocates food-combining to combat "toxic gas", which apparently causes obesity and constipation. No such syndrome exists. The premise that digestive enzymes needed for breakdown of proteins and carbohydrates neutralise each other, leaving foods in the gut to ferment, is untrue.

We are told that because these enzymes neutralise each other food is not digested. Were this the case the outcome would be malabsorption, diarrhoea and starvation, not obesity and constipation.

That Ms Jonsson's prescribed diet of oat cakes, vegetable stock and stir-fried vegetables leads to weight loss and increased bowel frequency is hardly surprising; it is the high-fibre, low-fat regime that most nutritionists would advocate. The combination in which food is eaten is an irrelevance.

In the article on acid balance ("Put yourself into neutral for a healthier life", January 7) the normal functioning of the healthy kidney is used to indicate poor health. The presence of acid urine indicates healthy kidney function to maintain body pH balance. There are a few rare conditions in which the kidney cannot produce an acid urine and this results in acidosis.

A consequence of this may be stripping of calcium from the bones, resulting not in osteoporosis as stated, but in osteomalacia — loss of bone calcium. However, these are serious con-

ditions resulting from kidney disease or damage, not from dietary intake of "acid" foods. Such conditions require treatment by a nephrologist, not fiddling around with the diet.

By the way, in the table of bad acids, wheat products, especially pasta, feature largely. Deborah Bull's sensible article opposite describes how her new diet, which included large quantities of bread and pasta, has changed her life. What are your readers to think?

Yours faithfully,
H. J. ELLIS.

PAUL J. CICLITRA,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.
January 7.

From Mrs P. Greenly

Sir, Great stress is laid these days upon the need for regular exercise, such as a short brisk walk, to ensure the wellbeing of people of mature years.

I have no quarrel with this advice provided one is able to follow it. My husband and I both suffer from arthritis, particularly in the knees and ankles, and while we would dearly like to take a daily walk, are unable to do so.

Can we in future have less emphasis on the brisk walk routine and more about general exercise to suit all people?

Yours faithfully,
P. GREENLY,
Bruton House,
175 Goldthorn Hill, Peru,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
January 10.

Image, and have no heroes. Even God comes out as a Selfridge's grotto Santa. We have come to love humiliating and taking the mickey out of our national leaders and high achievers.

Yours etc.,
SARUK K. CHAKRAVARTY,
Minal, 55 The Avenue, Beckenham, Kent.
January 8.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I can think of one way in which the Prince can improve his image at a stroke: follow the admirable examples of his mother and his mistress by putting up the shutters on the media.

That he might not only regain respect but also some of the dignity of kingship which he lost after repeated surrenders to television. Surely there is a case for monarchs-in-waiting as well as monarchs to be seen but rarely heard.

Yours etc.,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown,
Avebury, Wiltshire.
January 12.

Churchill and gas

From Mr Norman Gelb

Sir, Winston Churchill's lack of "squeamishness" about possible British use of poison gas in warfare was not — as your report of January 3 might imply — confined to the First World War period.

File CAB 65/7 at the Public Record Office at Kew reveals that in the early months of the Second World War Churchill suggested to the War Cabinet that, though proscribed by international law, poison gas should be used against invading German forces if they successfully managed to land on the then thinly defended British coast. He said Britain had the right to do what it liked on its own territory.

Sincerely,
NORMAN GELB (Author,
Dunkirk, Michael Joseph, 1989,
107 Hurlingham Road, SW6.
January 5.

nearly a thousand farthings to a pound, such was the size of a pound then as a currency. Yet now Europe contemplates adopting a unit which is not even as large as our present pound. A few days ago I paid "ten shillings" for half a loaf of bread; how soon may we expect to pay ten euros?

When Chancellor Kohl suggested that the major unit of the new currency should be called a euro instead of one ecu he should have also said "and one euro will be worth ten ects". Such a unit should last at least halfway through the next century before it may need renewing.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. MacGILL,
The Wilderness,
St George's Lane, Ascot, Berkshire.
January 1.

suits of the former. On the basis that the present parliamentary majority of 120 to 20 cannot be overturned in one election, Albania can look forward to at least a decade of democratic, free market government and continuing rapid economic growth.

The disappointment for the UK is that so few of its companies are joining in the development of the country where opportunities are legion — the French, German, Italians, even Saudi Arabians are all hard at work.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD J. STEWART,
90 Ebury Street, SW1.
January 6.

Business letters, page 31

From Mr Robert A. Morley

Sir, You demonstrate most effectively the bumbling quackishness of food science. Of the two diet regimes featured today one requires a rigid balance between carbohydrates, fat and protein in each meal, the other insists that starch (a carbohydrate) must not be eaten at the same time as protein.

Sir, our grannies had it right — and far more economically in words: a little of what you fancy does you good.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT A. MORLEY,
25 Rectory Road,
Southport, Merseyside.
January 6.

From Mrs P. Greenly

Sir, Great stress is laid these days upon the need for regular exercise, such as a short brisk walk, to ensure the wellbeing of people of mature years.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 13: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning left Royal Air Force Marham for Stockholm to attend the Funeral of Prince Bertil of Sweden.

His Royal Highness this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Marham.

Sir Brian McGrath was in

attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 13: The Prince of Wales today visited Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan), the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning addressed The Prince's Trust Scottish

Study Support Conference at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

The Prince of Wales later visited Phase One improvements to the Royal Mile at Mercat Cross.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Scottish Tartans Museum, the Scotch House, Prince's Street.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, The Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom, this afternoon attended a Ceremony for the Presentation of Awards to Students of the Royal College of Nursing Institute, at the Barbican Hall, London EC2.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will attend a luncheon to mark the centenary year of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland, Glasgow City Chambers, at 12.30; and as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a dinner for the US Supporters Club, Bucks, London W1, at 7.30.

Edward Ram

A Service of Thanksgiving for Ned Ram will be held at noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street.

Reception

The Royal Academy of Engineering
Sir David Davies, CBE, FEngFRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, and Lady Davies, were the hosts at a reception for Fellows and their guests at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, last night. Professor John Burland, FEng, a member of the Italian Prime Minister's Commission for stabilising the Leaning Tower of Pisa, delivered a lecture on "Propping up Pisa".

Birthdays today

Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Private Secretary to the Queen Mother 66; Professor Sir Melville Arnott, cariologist, 88; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 68; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 63; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfechan, 99; Baronesses Byford, 56; Lord Cain, 74; the Earl of Drogheda, 80; Miss Fay Dunaway, actress, 52; Miss Maina Giegied, ballerina, 52; Miss Andrée Grenfell, former managing director, Glensay International, 57; Miss Sophie Harley, fashion designer, 32; Sir Martin Holdgate, president, Zoological Society of London, 66; Sir Arthur Hoole, former president, Law Society, 73; Professor Sir Hans Korn-

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Mr Trevor Nunns, theatre director, 57; Sir Neil Pritchard, diplomat, 76; Mr C.R. Reeves, banker, 61; Sir Vernon Secombe, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals' NHS Trust, 67; Mrs Hazel Williamson, QC, 50; John Woodcock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 65; Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-Electric, 74.

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berg, FRS, former Master

OBITUARIES

DUNCAN WOOD

Duncan Wood, TV comedy producer, died on January 11 aged 71. He was born on March 24, 1925.

Duncan Wood "was one of television's leading comedy producers. He brought to the BBC's screens *Hancock's Half Hour* and *Steptoe and Son* and, to ITV screens, *Rising Damp* — all three of which series are still being seen and admired today."

A private man with none of the flamboyance associated with show business, he had an instinctive knowledge of whether a script would work, where the laughs would come and who should be cast in the leading parts.

Duncan Wood was born in Bristol and joined the BBC there in 1941 before being called up into the Royal Tank Corps. He saw service in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) and after the war went back to the BBC as a news engineer. In those days he ran a dance band, played the trumpet, and was known as "Hot Lips Wood"; his BBC colleagues, His talents came to the attention of Frank Gillard, the head of the BBC's Western Region. Gillard persuaded his colleagues that instead of remaining an engineer, Wood should be made a variety producer.

Four years later he moved to London as a comedy producer. *Hancock's Half Hour*, first broadcast on radio in 1954, was a new form of comedy developed by two brilliant young scriptwriters, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson. Together with Tony Hancock, they moved from radio to television and knew at once that in Duncan Wood they had found a producer who would make this the kind of comedy that, in Frank Muir's words, "would engage viewers' minds and affection as well as eyeballs".

Tony Hancock was to star in seven television series of *Hancock's Half Hour* — 63 programmes, all of them written by Galton and Simpson, all of them produced by Duncan Wood. He pioneered the technique of directing a situation comedy and he was the first to use videotape, appreciating at once that it would help to relieve Hancock of the strain of doing everything "live".



Wood's confidence as a director was put to the test when he took charge of Galton and Simpson's next project, *Steptoe and Son*, the adventures of two rag-and-bone men. Instead of casting two comedians, he went for actors: Harry H. Corbett, then at the Bristol Old Vic, and Wilfred Brambell. The series was so successful that it ran with gaps from January 1962 until Boxing Day 1974, won numerous awards for the actors, writers, and the producer, and had a considerable influence on other programmes.

So popular was *Steptoe and Son* that during the election campaign of 1964 Sir Hugh Greene, then Director-General of the BBC, was prevailed upon by Harold Wilson to shut the

programme, due to go out on polling night, to a time after the polls had closed. Wilson's advisers had warned him that *Steptoe and Son*, in the crucial last hour for Labour votes, would tend to keep party supporters at home rather than make the journey to the polling booth.

In 1972 Wood became head of BBC Comedy but he did not enjoy the job. When the invitation came from Yorkshire Television to head up that company's new light entertainment department, Wood went willingly to Leeds the following year. Yorkshire Television at the time was good at producing drama and documentaries. Under Wood it became, along with Thames, the leading ITV company in

comedy. Wood's first major success was to turn an Eric Chappell play *Banana Box*, starring Wilfred Brambell, into a TV situation comedy. He called it *Rising Damp* and, instead of starring his old friend from *Steptoe*, he cast Leonard Rossiter in the lead role. There was instant acclaim from the critics and later from the public. For three successive weeks *Rising Damp* was number one in the ratings. Leonard Rossiter's Registry had become part of the nation's folklore.

Wood's devotion to Galton and Simpson persuaded them to write for commercial television for the first time, even though they were unhappy with ITV's 24-minute 30-second time formula. But such were Wood's powers of persuasion that their first production, *Holiday With Strings*, ran for 37 minutes and the network took it.

Other writers attracted by Wood, and the atmosphere he created at Leeds, were Dick Sharples, who wrote five series of *In Loving Memory* and Roy Clarke, who wrote *Oh No, It's Sehyn Froggit* for Bill Maynard. But the most prolific of the writers and the most successful was Eric Chappell whose biggest hit was *Only When I Laugh*, starring James Bolam, Peter Bowles, and the then relatively unknown Richard Wilson.

Saturday night had traditionally been a break night for ITV until Yorkshire introduced 321 with Ted Rodgers. Wood had spotted the show on one of his Spanish holidays and successfully adapted it for British audiences. Although not popular with the critics, 321 was an audience winner along with another Yorkshire show, *Winner Takes All*, in which Wood brought back to the ITV screens Jimmy Tuck.

Wood retired from Yorkshire Television on the eve of his 60th birthday in 1984. He was happiest on the golf course, preferably in Spain, where he succeeded in getting his handicap down to six. He was a lonely man by his own choice; his work had been his friend and family. Although nothing fazed him in television, he failed to make a success of his private life. Both of his marriages ended in divorce and there are no children.

LORD CROFT

Lord Croft, art collector and Honorary Keeper of Contemporary Art at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, died at Croft Castle, Herefordshire, on January 11 aged 80. He was born on August 20, 1916.

CROFT is an ancient Welsh Border castle, the home of Bernard de Croft at the time of the Domesday Book, and the "famous and very knightly family of the Crofts", as they are called by Camden in his *Britannia*.

In 1746 the 2nd Baronet disposed of Croft to meet his debts, and although Croft lived in parts of the castle at a later date, it was only after Michael Croft succeeded his father in 1947 that he was able to ensure that Croft Castle was saved for the nation. At first, however, things were very difficult. When his father died, there were considerable death duties to pay, and he had to sell Croft Castle to akins, Major Owen Croft. Only when Major Croft died in 1956 was Michael Croft able to move back into the castle, which passed into the control of the National Trust. A major part of his life's work was to refurbish the castle and restore the estate.

Michael Croft's second great interest was contemporary art, of which he had great knowledge. At Croft he created one of the most outstanding and representative collections in Europe. He had an inspiring mind, refined travel, despite increasing ill-health, and rarely left any house, which he had visited as a member of the public without acquiring a print for the gardens at Croft.

Michael Henry Glendower Page Croft was educated at Eton and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He was the son of the 1st Baron Croft, a former

for the war. Over the years he accumulated a considerable collection of modern art, and was a great patron of young artists — long before they had achieved any prominence. Croft's collection included drawings, paintings and prints. He was extremely generous in donating parts of his collection, and lending to museums and galleries his works of art. During the war Oskar Kokoschka spent much of his time at Croft's house and, in addition to a portrait of Mich-



ael Croft, there are many other examples of his work at Croft.

Works by Picasso, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth (early works), David Hockney, Henry Moore and many others were collected in the small galleries by Croft. In addition, drawings and paintings by Jasper Johns, Bridget Riley, Sam Francis and Asger Jorn were acquired over a number of years.

In 1960 he became a member of the executive committee of the Contemporary Arts Society, on which he served until 1968, and later from 1970 to 1981. During the latter period he was honorary secretary 1971-76, honorary treasurer 1976-80, and vice-chairman 1980-81.

A member of the British Museum Society, 1969-76, Croft's contribution to the field of contemporary art was acknowledged when he was appointed Honorary Keeper of Contemporary Art at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, in 1984. He was immensely supportive to all the organisations with which he came into contact. A quiet, unassuming man, with natural charm, he was much appreciated by the people of Herefordshire and the Welsh Borders. He was respected, too, in the international art world where his knowledge of modern art was highly regarded. Although heavily hit by Lloyd's losses, he saw to it that the future of Croft would remain secure and that his personal collection of contemporary art would go to museums and galleries.

In 1948 Croft married Lady Antoinette Frederica Conyngham, only daughter of the 6th Marquess of Conyngham. She predeceased him in 1959. He is succeeded as the 3rd Baron by his only son Bernard, and is also survived by a daughter of the marriage.

THE VERY REV IAN WHITE-THOMSON

The Very Rev Ian White-Thomson, Dean of Canterbury, 1963-76, died on January 11 aged 92. He was born on December 15, 1904.

THOSE who heard Ian White-Thomson giving his lecture on the three Archbishops of Canterbury whom he served as chaplain may well have concluded that what he said to

them as much about the lecturer as it did about his subjects.

It was a remarkable lecture, perceptive in its estimate of character, lightened with touches of humour. It was soft-spoken but with an admirable use of voice, emphasis and pause.

It was a tribute to White-Thomson that three men of such different characters as

Cosmo Gordon Lang, William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher should all have been happy to have had him in their service in the peculiar intimacy and affection which should exist — and in these cases certainly did exist — between any senior churchman and his chaplain.

Ian Hugh White-Thomson came of a clerical family: his father had been Archdeacon of Canterbury, and it was to the

Palace at Ely that Ian returned from Harrow and Brasenose College, Oxford, for the holidays after his father became Bishop of that East Anglian see. A fundamentally happy, if sometimes austere, home background gave him a sure foundation for life.

White-Thomson's own clerical work was mainly in the diocese of Canterbury — he was curate of St Mary's

Ashford, rector of St Martin's with St Paul's, Canterbury, and vicar of Folkestone, 1947-54. His experience of the North was gained as Archdeacon of Northumberland and a residential canon of Newcastle, 1955-63. He then returned to Canterbury as Dean in 1963, a position he was to occupy until his retirement in 1976. He also served as chaplain to King George VI, 1947-52, and to the Queen, 1952-63. He was made a Freeman of the City of Canterbury, 1976, and an honorary DCL of the University of Kent at Canterbury, 1977.

As Dean of Canterbury, Ian White-Thomson presided over the mother-church of the Anglican Communion with great distinction and dignity. He had attended William Temple as chaplain at his enthronement in 1942, and was Dean at the enthronement of Michael Ramsey and of Donald Coggan. Some of his best work was to be seen in the informal Sunday evening services which he conducted and at which he usually preached. To these occasions a large number of students and others eagerly came. Here his love of young people and his understanding of their needs were to be seen at their best.

His readiness in relating to people of all walks of life and in engaging with them in immediate and sympathetic conversation, without hesitation or awkwardness, and his instinctive empathy with those in trouble secured him widespread affection.

He had a way with words — almost a reverence for them — and took great care in his use of them. He was a Six Preacher in Canterbury legendary, right into his old age, people wanted to listen to him. This sense of humour was one of the things which gave him

so deep an appreciation of, and love for, William Temple, surely the favourite of the

three archbishops for whom he worked as chaplain.

He married at the age of 49

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THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER.

VICTORY OF MR. DARWIN.

FROM OUR GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Holderness's ancient, solitary reign in the Oxford and Cambridge Society's Tournament has ended at last, and a Cambridge player has won for the first time, Mr. Darwin beating Mr. Bristow yesterday, after a most adventurous match, by two holes up and one to play. I do not think Mr. Darwin will be hurt in his feelings by any remarks I make about him, and so I will say that he is one of the most enigmatical golfers of my acquaintance. You never can tell to what depths of futility he may fall, nor, comparatively speaking, to what heights he may rise. The result is that he is a dangerous golfer to let off, as Mr. Bristow found to his cost. I must add, however, that Mr. Bristow was not a fit man. He caught a chill on Friday, and this told against him. Yesterday he was obviously tired before the end came. Had he been well, I think he would have won. One of the greatest of all golfers, when he arrived at Rye on Saturday

ON THIS DAY

January 14, 1924

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0102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 14
0103	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+1+26
0104	V Bartman	Arsenal	0.75	0 - 0
0105	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 - 10
0106	M Boenlich	Aston Villa	3.50	-3 +2
0107	M Cakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 - 19
0108	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-5 +11
0109	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 - 14
0110	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0 - 1
0111	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+1 - 15
0112	D Kharine	Chester	2.50	-1 +10
0113	K Willcock	Chester	2.00	-3 - 20
0114	F Grodze	Chester	3.00	-3 +3
0115	S Ognostic	Coventry City	1.50	-7 - 20
0116	J Pien	Coventry City	0.50	0 - 0
0117	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 - 0
0118	R Holt	Dundee United	0.50	0 - 14
0119	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 - 10
0120	L Day	Dunfermline	0.50	-5 - 39
0121	N Wimborne	Everton	2.50	-3 - 12
0122	N Sutthill	Everton	2.50	-5 +1
0123	P Gerrard	Hibernian	2.00	-3 - 21
0124	G Rowan	Hibernian	1.50	-3 - 19
0125	J Leighton	Leeds United	1.00	-12 - 31
0126	D Lejkovic	Leeds United	1.50	0 - 0
0127	M Beaveney	Leeds United	0.25	0 - 6
0128	P Evans	Leicester City	2.50	+5 - 7
0129	N Martyn	Leicester City	1.00	0 - 6
0130	K Pools	Leicester City	1.00	-5 - 18
0131	K Keller	Leicester City	0.50	-5 - 18
0132	D James	Liverpool	0.50	+8 - 20
0133	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 - 0
0134	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1 - 7
0135	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	-1 - 7
0136	G Welsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2 - 20
0137	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3 - 33
0138	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-1 - 20
0139	F Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	-2 - 2
0140	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 - 0
0141	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5 - 26
0142	S Thomson	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 - 0
0143	A Goram	Rangers	0.50	-2 - 25
0144	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1 - 3
0145	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 - 0
0146	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 - 28
0147	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 - 2
0148	M Taylor	Southampton	1.50	-1 - 4
0149	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+5 - 16
0150	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-3 - 5
0151	E Baardson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	-5 - 0
0152	L Mikkola	West Ham United	2.00	+5 - 15
0153	S Matton	West Ham United	0.50	-0 - 5
0154	N Solliven	Wimbledon	1.00	-1 - 1
0155	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 - 0



Andersen, of Rangers, in action against Aberdeen on Saturday. His two goals boosted his ITF tally to 31 points

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk On
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0 - 0
30206	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-1 +15
30207	U Elogu	Aston Villa	3.00	-1 +37
30208	C Blair	Aston Villa	1.00	-1 +11
30209	R Schmeiss	Aston Villa	1.00	+1 +15
30210	D Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+4 +21
30211	P Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 - 3
30212	J Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	+2 - 12
30213	N Parker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1 +18
30214	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4 +18
30215	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	-4 - 9
30216	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0 - 11
30217	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	+2 - 2
30218	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1 +11
30219	F Labone	Chelsea	2.50	-1 +20
30220	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-2 - 4
30221	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	+3 - 3
30222	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	-1 +5
30223	D Johnson	Coventry City	2.00	-3 +5
30224	H Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-4 +2
30225	S Stivic	Derby County	2.50	0 - 0
30226	D Wallace	Derby County	1.00	0 - 0
30227	G Johnson	Derby County	2.50	0 - 0
30228	D McPherson	Dundee United	1.00	+3 +36
30229	J McMillan	Dundee United	0.75	-4 - 3
30230	A Wright	Dundee United	0.75	-4 - 18
30231	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0 - 0
30232	P Klog	Aston Villa	0.25	0 - 2
30233	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	-2 - 24
30234	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4 +17
30235	G le Saix	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1 +21
30236	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4 +16
30237	G Craft	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-5 - 42
30238	J McNamee	Celtic	0.50	-1 +28
30239	T McKinlay	Celtic	0.50	-2 - 14
30240	D Petroulou	Chelsea	2.00	-1 - 4
30241	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	-1 - 7
30242	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	-3 - 3
30243	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-7 - 7
30244	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	-3 - 8
30245	R Geraux	Coventry City	1.50	-2 - 4
30246	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	-1 - 3
30247	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	-4 - 4
30248	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	-4 - 4
30249	M Malpass	Dundee United	0.50	-3 - 34
30250	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-5 - 7
30251	N Dunly	Dundee United	0.50	-7 - 7
30252	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	-2 - 11
30253	A Tod	Dunfermline	2.50	-4 - 4
30254	M Hoddiger	Everton	2.00	-1 - 14
30255	A Minchaffe	Everton	2.00	-1 - 2
30256	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	-1 - 2
30257	E Barnet	Everton	1.50	-1 - 13
30258	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	-6 - 6
30259	N Polton	Hearts	1.00	-5 - 5
30260	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-1 - 2
30261	A Dow	Hibernian	0.50	-2 - 18
30262	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	2.00	-1 - 1
30263	S Clarke	Leeds United	2.00	-1 - 7
30264	S Minto	Leeds United	1.00	-3 - 3
30265	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-7 - 7
30266	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	-3 - 8
30267	R Geraux	Coventry City	1.50	-2 - 4
30268	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	-1 - 3
30269	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	-4 - 4
30270	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	-4 - 4
30271	M Malpass	Dundee United	0.50	-3 - 34
30272	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-5 - 7
30273	N Dunly	Dundee United	0.50	-7 - 7
30274	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	-2 - 11
30275	A Tod	Dunfermline	2.50	-4 - 4
30276	M Hoddiger	Everton	2.00	-1 - 14
30277	A Minchaffe	Everton	2.00	-1 - 2
30278	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	-1 - 2
30279	E Barnet	Everton	1.50	-1 - 13
30280	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	-6 - 6
30281	N Polton	Hearts	1.00	-5 - 5
30282	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-1 - 2
30283	A Dow	Hibernian	0.50	-2 - 18
30284	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	2.00	-1 - 1
30285	S Clarke	Leeds United	2.00	-1 - 7
30286	P Klog	Leeds United	1.00	-3 - 3
30287	F Nelson	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30288	G Halle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30289	P Bannister	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30290	S McCallion	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30291	J Nemomia	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30292	D Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4 - 18
30293	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4 - 18
30294	J Pemberton	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-5 - 5
30295	N Ruddock	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1 - 14
30296	D Mattice	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+4 - 21
30297	M van der Gaag	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2 - 15
30298	D Pe			

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

NEWS

Cost of civil justice soars

■ Millions of people who pursue civil disputes in the courts will find fees have more than doubled as the Government tries to make civil justice pay for itself.

Filing a divorce petition will go up from £80 to £150, compared with £40 18 months ago. The cost of lodging trial papers and asking for a date in the county courts is doubled to £100; it was free a decade ago..... Page 1

Major looks back at heroic failure

■ John Major stood at Mitchini Point in the Khyber Pass on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, looking at the scene of one of Britain's biggest military failures. His visit came 15 years to the day after the sole survivor of a 16,500-strong British force rode to the safety of Jalalabad. The others died of starvation, cold and at the hands of Afghan tribesmen..... Page 1

Millennium cutback

Organisers scaled down plans for the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, cutting the £700 million budget by a fifth..... Page 1

Lobster quadrille

Live lobsters may be coming to a supermarket near you. But animal welfare activists are preparing for a fight..... Page 1

Grant controversy

A grant for a charity working with transsexuals triggered fresh clashes between Virginia Bottomley and the National Lottery Charities Board..... Page 2

Clifford clash

Pandemonium broke out when the publicist Max Clifford lunged at his Conservative MP critic Roger Gale at a BBC television studio..... Page 3

Letter bombing

Islamic extremists were believed to be behind letter-bomb attacks in London and New York. Page 4

Golden day

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with a Buckingham Palace garden party for 4,000 other couples who married in 1947..... Page 5

Moral vacuum

The Bishop of Chester complained that children have to grow up too quickly in a culture where pop stars are let off for drug offences..... Page 6

Pampered pets pensioned off in style

■ A \$1 million retirement home for pets is to be built in New York. The Golden Years nursing home, with its "kind to paws" heated floors, will provide care for ageing family animals with a regime including climbing ledges, free rubber balls, and gentle, twice-daily walkies. A special greenhouse-style sun trap will be reserved for "feline residents"..... Page 6



Demonstrators who brought public transport to a halt in Sofia found solidarity among tram passengers. Report, page 15

BUSINESS

Merger threat: British Airways insisted that its proposed alliance with American Airlines was on track, amid signs of growing opposition from Brussels..... Page 27

Freemans sale: Sears has agreed to sell its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £395 million and plans to return £410 million to shareholders..... Page 27

Interest rates: Shares rose to near record levels on renewed hopes that interest rates may not rise after Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George meet tomorrow..... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 closed up 50.7 at 4107.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell 0.4 point to 95.7 with the pound falling from DM2.6635 to DM2.6525 and from \$1.6810 to \$1.6699..... Page 50

Clinton hearing: The US Supreme Court heard both sides of the sexual harassment case of William Clinton v Paula Jones..... Page 16

Sofia strikes: Bulgarian opposition leaders held more strikes and demonstrations in an attempt to topple the Socialist Government. Diplomats said Sofia would be bankrupted within two weeks..... Page 15

Motorists: The new spring/summer looks – previewed by Grace Bradberry

Weather: Latest road and weather conditions

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North Motorways 0336 401 910

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Weather forecast 0336 401 509

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succeeding in
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Henman clears
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

Sears hopes to pacify institutions with buyback

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LIAM STRONG, chief executive of Sears, the struggling retailer, sought to placate institutional shareholders yesterday by promising that the group would return £410 million to them, probably through a share buyback.

Most of the money for the buyback will come from the sale, announced yesterday, of its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £35 million. The rest will come from last year's sale of a Glasgow shopping centre. The Freemans deal will lead to an exceptional loss, after the write-off of goodwill, of £220 million, Sears said. This is set to

plunge Sears about £140 million into the red for the current year to January 31.

Forecasts for full-year profits, which will be announced in April, were slashed from more than £100 million to about £80 million last week after Sears — which includes Selfridges, the British Shoe Corporation and the Wallis and Warehouse women's wear chains — issued a profit warning and unexpectedly poor trading figures.

Sears will have to bear some tax and pension costs from the Freemans deal which mean it is likely to receive only £338 million. The sale is conditional on the approval of Sears shareholders, which will be sought at

an extraordinary general meeting on January 30. Other conditions are the agreement of Littlewoods shareholders and clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

The success of the latest Sears move depends on the outcome of talks between the company and the Inland Revenue over whether its institutional investors can claim tax credits from a buyback, analysts said. A buyback is preferred to a special dividend because of its potential tax advantages.

Leading institutional investors, many of whom have become deeply unhappy about the management of Mr Strong and would like to see him replaced, said yesterday that

they were expecting to talk to Sears in the next few days. "We are very fed up, but we want to see how the numbers add up before we make any decisions," said one. The problem of finding a replacement is giving Mr Strong some protection, analysts said.

A spokeswoman for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, holder of nearly 12 per cent of Sears, said it would keep "an open mind" on Sears's management before meetings with the company this week. Mr Strong said: "The sale of Freemans is the most significant step in the simplification and focusing of Sears. During the last four years we have exited from 23 businesses including house-

building, jewellery and menswear." He said the future of footwear, the remaining problem area, depended on its trading over the next 12 months. Sources close to the group have indicated that if it has not turned round by the summer, then British Shoe faces sale or closure. Analysts said BSC could prove hard to sell and costly to close. James Ross, chairman of Littlewoods, Britain's largest private company, said buying Freemans should give it lower unit distribution and sourcing costs. The cash for the deal would come from bank loans, he said.

Pennington, page 29

European opposition to BA link intensifies

By JON ASHWOOD

BRITISH AIRWAYS insisted that its proposed alliance with American Airlines was on track yesterday, despite signs of growing opposition from the European Commission. BA said the final word on the deal rested with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in London.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, has written to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, expressing his concerns. He said the agreement would constitute "an abuse of a dominant position" and questioned whether it met the conditions for the granting of an exemption under European law.

BA and American would together speak for more than 60 per cent of flights between the UK and US, and account for nearly 70 per cent of the important London-New York run. Mr Lang announced last month that he would refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless suitable undertakings were given. These included giving up 168 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow — the equivalent of 12 flights a day. The undertakings had to be enough to remove competition concerns, and allow an exemption to be granted under European law.

Rival carriers say BA should be forced to give up a far greater number of slots at Heathrow — perhaps 400 or more — and should not be financially compensated. Each pair of slots could be worth £3 million, potentially leaving BA with a huge "war chest" at its disposal.

Mr van Miert has fuelled the debate, saying selling slots is not permitted under European Union civil aviation regulations. Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, has expressed a similar opinion. Mr van Miert intimated that he would refer the alliance to the European Court of Justice if Mr Lang took a contrary view.

BA insisted yesterday that the European Commission could not ultimately interfere with the decision-making process. Under Article 89 of the

treaty of Rome, the decision rests with the competent regulatory authority — in this case, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

The EASA has the right to study the alliance and to make recommendations, but cannot ultimately overrule the DTI. It could challenge whether the UK authorities had acquitted themselves satisfactorily under European law, but whether it would go to this extreme remained to be seen.

BA says there is nothing under European law to say that slots cannot be bought, sold or swapped. It says airlines have been doing it for years, and points to Ryanair, where more than 40 new carriers have started operations in the past five years. Rivals such as Continental, United and Delta were fiercely critical of the preliminary EASA proposals.

Whether the BA-American alliance proceeds depends on three separate strands. On Friday, the two airlines formally applied to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) for anti-trust immunity. Without this, they will be unable to co-ordinate their passenger and cargo services. The process normally takes about 90 days.

Officials assemble in Washington on February 4 for the next round of talks aimed at clinching a new bilateral air services agreement between the UK and US. The last round was held in London on December 6. This "open skies" agreement must be clinched before BA-American can proceed.

The final word rests with Mr Lang. Friday was the last day for submissions from carriers opposed to the alliance. The EASA will consider the submissions and pass its recommendations to Mr Lang, who will in turn announce his decision.

The process is expected to take some weeks.

It seems likely that these three "pots" will come to the boil at about the same time. BA and American hope to begin phasing in operations to coincide with their summer fares season, which starts on March 30.



Allen Lloyd stands to make £35 million from Gehe's takeover of Lloyds Chemists

Gehe wins Lloyds Chemists

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals company, yesterday won the year-long fight for Lloyds Chemists after UniChem finally conceded defeat. The British bidder decided not to increase its offer and instead sold its 9.7 per cent stake in Lloyds to Gehe (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Lloyd's Chemists recommended Gehe's 525p-a-share, £684 million final offer. It said that all of its board, including Allen Lloyd, founding chairman and holder of 5 per cent

of the chemist-shop company, would accept Gehe's terms.

Mr Lloyd stands to make more than £35 million from the deal. His wife, Marilyn, who sold three million shares at 450p in May, could have made an extra £2.25 million if she had hung on to the end.

During the day, Gehe swept up 57.5 per cent of Lloyds shares, taking its holding to 78.4 per cent.

Jeff Harris, the chief executive of UniChem, said: "UniChem believes that it was

in shareholders' interests to pursue Lloyds Chemists, but we are not willing to overpay for it."

He added: "We will continue to follow our strategy of developing UniChem as a leading healthcare company."

UniChem said that staging the bid cost it £14 million in all. It yesterday made a £3.5 million profit on selling its Lloyds shares. UniChem shares closed up 13½p at 569½p. Pennington, page 29

Pet City cash call bites the hand that feeds

By JASON NISSE

SUPPLIERS to Pet City, the "superstore devoted to pets", have reacted angrily to letters from the chain's new owners, Petsmart of Phoenix, Arizona, asking the suppliers for sizeable contributions towards the costs of expanding Pet City.

Petsmart bought Pet City, which was

founded in 1989, for £170 million late

last year, in a deal seen by many analysts as overpriced. The ink was hardly dry on the sale when a letter was sent to suppliers, dated January 9, from Marcia Meyer, Petsmart's general merchandise manager.

The letter, a copy of which has been passed to *The Times*, mentions plans to open 30 stores in the next 15 months and asks suppliers to "assist us with a nominal fee" which, in the case of one

pet food manufacturer, was £100,000. Ms Meyer asks for a reply to the UK purchasing director by this Thursday "indicating your commitment to participate in our future plans" and adds: "We require your prompt response so that he can finalise his 1997 product plans quickly. Three new UK stores open in February and you could expect orders to be placed with you shortly."

The suppliers are co-ordinating a

response to Petsmart to tell the company that they are not prepared to pay anything. One said: "It's hard to interpret this letter as anything but a demand for money so that you can continue doing business with Pet City."

No one at Pet City's head office in Swindon was able to explain the advantage to suppliers of paying the "nominal fee". Ms Meyer was not available for comment.

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Yield	—	n/a
FTSE All share	18116.7	(+13.84)
Nikkei	15789.7	(+5.52)
New York	5717.85	(+13.86)
Dow Jones	760.71	(+1.21)
S&P Composite	760.71	(+1.21)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.00%	(5.00%)
Long Bond	5.57%	(5.57%)
Yield	5.65%	(5.65%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.9%	(6.9%)
Libor long gilt future (Mar)	108.75	(108.75)
Yield	9.65%	(9.65%)

STERLING

New York	1.6727	(1.6801)
London	1.6682	(1.6803)
DM	2.6511	(2.6617)
FFP	2.3025	(2.3125)
SP	2.3004	(2.3114)
Yen	194.03	(194.77)
Euro	95.7	(96.1)

\$1.60	1.6000	(1.6000)
London	1.6000	(1.6000)
DM	1.6918*	(1.6900)
FFP	1.6918*	(1.6900)
SP	1.6918*	(1.6900)
Yen	116.40	(116.13)
Euro	99.3	(99.0)

Tokyo close Yen	116.18	
NORTH SEA OIL	—	
Brent 15-day (Mar)	522.50	(522.50)
Gold	—	
London close	538.05	(538.10)

Hilton and Ladbroke sign tie-up agreement</

Japanese shares on rebound

Japanese stocks recovered strongly yesterday in a rollercoaster session, clawing back some of last week's big losses.

The Nikkei index soared more than 1,100 points but analysts fear that the good news may not last.

The Nikkei ended a hectic session up 815.14, or 4.71 per cent, at 18,187.79, its first rally in a week. The sharp gain exceeded what it lost on Friday in its biggest one-day drop since January 23, 1995. Last week it fell more than 2,000 amid gloom over the Government's ability to keep economic recovery on track. Analysts said yesterday's rebound was technical.

Janet Bush, page 31

Morgan up

JP Morgan, the US bank, lifted earnings 21 per cent, to more than \$1.5 billion, last year. There was a particularly strong increase in trading, including the firm's dealing on its own account, with revenues up 80 per cent, to \$2.4 billion. Earnings from investment banking more than doubled to \$921 million. Fourth-quarter earnings rose 14 per cent, to \$419 million.

Renault alert

Renault is heading for a sharp loss from cars in 1996, Louis Schweizer, president, said. In 1995, Renault reported profits of Fr2.14 billion from consolidated sales of Fr84 billion. M Schweizer said that the trend for the car division, after a loss in 1995, was "towards a sharp worsening of our losses".

Cerebrus cash

Cerebrus, a developer of treatments for neurological disorders, has raised £13.8 million by a private placing of shares. Schroder Ventures was among existing investors that provided £4.1 million.

Clay jobs go

English China Clays International is to shed 300 jobs, a tenth of its payroll, blaming competitive pressures. The jobs will go mainly in the St Austell area of Cornwall.



Graham Stringer, chair of Manchester Airport's board, launched a campaign against regulations restricting airlines' access to regional airports

Confidence of financial services providers hits seven-year high

By ROBERT MILLER

FINANCIAL services companies are more optimistic about future business prospects than at any time in the past seven years.

The Confederation of British Industry and Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, said in their latest joint survey, published yesterday, that business confidence had risen for the fourth consecutive quarter.

The latest findings are backed by an actual rise in business volumes, which grew faster than expected in

banks, building societies and insurers grew at its fastest rate in the final three months of last year than at any time since the first survey in December 1989. The CBI said that confidence in future growth prospects had also risen for the fourth consecutive quarter.

The latest findings are backed by an actual rise in business volumes, which grew faster than expected in

final three months of 1996. The CBI found that a balance of 79 per cent more firms said that business had risen than had fallen, with banks, building societies and securities traders reporting the largest volume increases.

For the first time since March 1990 life insurance companies told the survey that they considered business levels to be above normal, although general insurers were

less optimistic than their counterparts in the life sector.

Profitability rose at the fastest rate since September 1994, with a balance of 48 per cent of the survey's 304 participants reporting an increase. This compares with a balance of 23 per cent in the third quarter of last year, and 11 per cent in the final three months of 1995.

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said: "Strong growth

in financial services mirrors the pick-up in the overall economy, with firms expecting further but less-pronounced increases over the coming months.

"Firms are increasing their profitability as business grows and by cutting jobs to control the rises in their costs."

Another survey, however, published yesterday by Datamonitor, the management consultant, suggested that the profitability of high street banks will come under greater pressure.

Datamonitor based its gloomy prediction for UK banks on the likely increase in competition and a lost share of life and pensions products.

Harry Stokes, a Datamonitor analyst, said:

"New entrants in the UK banking market have brought new products and new technologies which are proving successful in attracting the customer. Banks are now on the defensive."

Kodak to expand further in Ireland

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

EASTMAN KODAK, the US manufacturer of photographic equipment and supplies, yesterday announced its third major investment in the Irish Republic in less than a year.

At the official opening of its recordable compact disc manufacturing plant in Youghal,

Co Cork, the company said it planned to invest a further £1.93 million in the centre to create an extra 360 jobs over the next three years.

Work on the Youghal plant began last February after Eastman Kodak unveiled an £8.8 million investment plan.

The plant already employs 200 people.

Last month the company announced a £1.01 million investment in a new manufacturing operation in Limerick, also in the South East. The plant will produce film cas-

ettes for Kodak's new Ad-

vanced Photo System (APS) and will employ 400 people.

Richard Bruton, Minister for Enterprise and Employment, said that as well as the direct employment of 1,000 people, the combined Eastman Kodak investments will create another 1,000 jobs down the line.

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CU cuts payout on endowments

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

COMMERCIAL UNION yesterday claimed that it was still offering savers "excellent" returns, despite cutting total payments on all its maturing endowment policies.

The total payout on a 25-year endowment for a male aged 30 next birthday fell £4,440 from last year to £105,727, was down £4,639 on a 20-year policy to £46,095, while 10-year matu-

rities were £530 poorer at £9,762.

CU said it had maintained last year's 3 per cent annual bonus rate but sliced 0.5 per cent off the rate in attaching bonuses to 5 per cent and pushed down some of the terminal bonuses. On a 25-year endowment, for instance, the terminal bonus had also yielded a lower rate of 9.4 per cent, they had surpassed a lower inflation rate by 4.9 per cent.

In all, Commercial Union said it would be paying its proportion of the sum assured and annual bonuses chopped by 3.5 per cent to 36 per cent.

Ian Reynolds, general manager of life business, said: "25-year maturing endowments had provided an annual return of 13.4 per cent, 5.1 per cent above the rate of inflation. Whilst 10-year policies had yielded a lower rate of 9.4 per cent, they had surpassed a lower inflation rate by 4.9 per cent."

In all, Commercial Union said it would be paying its proportion of the sum assured and annual bonuses chopped by 3.5 per cent to 36 per cent.

Lockheed in talks with Aérospatiale

By OLIVER AUGUST

AEROSPATIALE, British Aerospace's French partner in Airbus, yesterday disclosed ongoing talks with Lockheed Martin, the US aircraft group, over co-operation to build large passenger aircraft.

Spurred by last month's Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger, Lockheed is keen to build a European project that can compete with a stretched version of the Boeing 747, according to Aérospatiale.

The French company is currently involved in the development of a 550-seat Airbus and a stretched Airbus 340. An Aérospatiale spokeswoman said: "Lockheed has no new programmes in that range. So they said to us we should do something together."

Aérospatiale is keen to co-operate with Lockheed to gain access to a US market dominated by the fast-consolidating domestic manufacturers.

Yves Michot, Aérospatiale's chairman, has met senior executives at Lockheed and will do so again next month. He also said yesterday that he had temporarily halted talks with Germany's Dasa over plans to merge their missiles and satellite activities.

Airbus signs stand-alone agreement

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

AIRBUS Industrie partners yesterday put their names to the agreement that will make the European aircraft consortium a stand-alone company by 1999.

But the signing of the memorandum of understanding, said by Airbus to be an important step in European aerospace consolidation, came amid uncertainty over its future market plans and over the speed of development of Airbus's superjumbo.

The memorandum dictates that production of Airbus planes will be controlled by the company rather than contracted out, as France's Aérospatiale had wanted. British Aerospace, a partner with Germany's Dasa and Spain's CASA, said that its 4,000 employees, who work in wing development and manufacture in Bristol and Chester, will become part of Airbus.

The memo was signed as it emerged that Manfred Bischoff, chairman of Dasa, had told Stern magazine he did not expect a stock market flotation of Airbus in the next few years and that no news was likely this year on the A3XX, the 600-seater airliner that will be in competition with one produced by Boeing.

Hamanaka trial date set

The trial of Yasuo Hamanaka, the former Sumitomo copper trader, will begin in Tokyo on February 17. Hamanaka faces forgery and fraud charges in connection with an estimated \$2.6 billion in losses allegedly run up over a ten-year period from unauthorised trades. Hamanaka will deny that he manipulated world copper markets, concocted fictitious trades or received any personal benefit from his transactions, his lawyers said.

EU inflation falls

ANNUAL inflation in the European Union fell to 2.2 per cent in November, the lowest level since the EU's statistics service began compiling the figures in 1983. The new figures show a 0.3 percentage point fall from October. In November the rate stood at 3 per cent, compared with 3.3 per cent for the United States and 0.1 per cent for Japan. Sweden recorded a fall in consumer prices, with inflation of minus 0.3 per cent. Greece had the highest inflation level, at 7.7 per cent.

Cardiff Property grows

CARDIFF PROPERTY, the investment and development company specialising in the Thames Valley area, enjoyed a 9.1 per cent rise in net asset value to 264p a share, from 242p, in the year to September 30. The value of assets improved 7 per cent to £8.8 million, from £8.2 million. Profits rose 15.6 per cent to £292,533 before tax, while earnings rose 13.2 per cent to 2.75p. The shares were unchanged at 195p.

Servomex buys Montec

SERVOMEX, the industrial instrumentation group, is acquiring Montec Holdings from Northumbrian Water for £3.8 million. Montec, which designs and manufactures sampling equipment, monitoring stations and flow measuring instruments for water utilities, incurred an £887,000 loss in the year to March 31 and is estimated to have lost £3.2 million in the nine months to December 31. This loss mainly reflects the cost of significant restructuring.

PWS increases payout

PWS HOLDINGS, the specialist reinsurance broking group, held pre-tax profits almost unchanged at £753,000 in the year to September 30, compared with £726,000 despite facing severe margin pressures from intense competition in international insurance markets. Earnings were 1.65p a share (1.52p). The interim dividend rises to 0.65p a share, from 0.5p. Peter Smith, managing director, said the company did not expect margin pressures to ease in the foreseeable future.

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BETCOURT PA

 Which utilities count as monopolies? Mathematics behind the Sears fiasco Eleven uses for an old oil rig

THOSE of us who suspect that the next couple of months are going to be no fun at all had further evidence yesterday. A utilities tax was ill-informed even by the degraded standards of today's political climate.

Listen to this contribution from someone called David Davis at the Foreign Office. "Even if a Labour government risked a legal challenge and imposed the windfall tax, Yorkshire families need to know the costs," he thundered. A peculiarly insular view, you might think, especially from the FO, except that Mr Davis represents Boothferry, once within the old Ridings. He has a majority of 17,535, but you can't be too careful, can you?

The theory is that Labour windfall tax could be challenged in the European court that Labour seems so fond of. An amusing whimsy, but little more. It is doubtful whether the relevant legislation actually allows such a challenge — Gordon Brown's lawyers seem certain it does not.

It is also doubtful whether, even if the legislation allows a challenge, a Labour government would be minded to pay the court much heed. The £3.5 billion being raised is such a huge chunk of Labour's financial needs that its loss would be a bill too steep to pay. And what better way of establishing Mr Blair's

Euro-sceptic credentials than fighting for the creation of jobs for the young unemployed, and against a Euro-court backing the rights of fat-cat utility bosses?

But there is one huge problem for any windfall tax, over and above the decision on how to levy it. This last is difficult enough; most measures, such as by profits earned, penalise successful enterprises. Even more difficult is deciding on which companies the tax can be applied. It should theoretically only be on monopolies except that there are precious few left.

British Telecom is no longer a monopoly, and a huge levy would merely be a gift to Mercury and others, by hampering BT's investment plans. Even if you regard BT's network of wires as a monopoly, there are still cellular phones.

BAA is not a monopoly, at least while Luton and Schiphol are open for business. The three power generators are self-evidently not tax them for "excess" profits" earned in an oligopoly, and you should tax the four big beer barons, too.

There are only four true

monopolies: the regional water and electricity companies in England and Wales — this lets the Scots off the hook — the National Grid, and British Gas's Transco pipelines. The first three have accepted that there will be a tax if Labour gets in. Set it at the modest levels they are expecting, and you might get away without too much opposition.

But if the tax is, and is seen to be, unfair and inconsistent, those companies disadvantaged have no choice but to go to law. One appreciates Mr Blair's personal interest in finding work for the legal profession. But he should resist the temptation.

A Strong and Constant decline

HERE is a question for the mathematically minded: how much is £410 million worth? Is it worth (a) £410 million (b) £223 million, (c) £200,000. The answer is all three.

Let us explain. The £410 million being handed back to Sears shareholders is worth exactly that amount plus 4.5 per cent if



they put it in the building society. And it is worth a little more than half that amount if left with the Sears management to do with it what they will.

This is an application of what mathematicians call the Strong Constant, a number representing how much of any given investment can be frittered away over time by Liam Strong and his pals. When he became chief executive, on Valentine's Day 1992, the shares were worth £1.

Put the equivalent amount on the FT All-share index, and you would end up today with 162p. Yesterday's bonus for shareholders raised barely a flicker, and the shares ended the day at 88p.

Sears shareholders might have been better off without the

six years' work the management have put in. All those relaunches, the unsuccessful creation of Shoe Express, and the shoe shops will now have to be given away, to allow Sears to concentrate on the two areas it knows best, Selfridges and women's clothes.

A straight sale of the shoe shops would be the cleanest option, but it would require a massive write-down, and the board would probably not survive another such. The shops will have to remain in some form, as an unloved appendage to the form of a minority stake.

Selfridges is a British institution, probably immune to even the Sears management's peculiar skills. As to why women's clothes as opposed to shoes, apparently the latter is a less risky, higher margin market these days — as opposed to five years ago, when women's fashion houses seemed to be going bust all over the place but shoes looked dull but safe.

Sears shareholders will have to hope that that particular wheel does not swing around again. The cash distribution may, however, have ensured another six

months' survival for Mr Strong. In that case £410 million is worth about £200,000 — or the amount he will earn over that period.

Better Shell than Whitehall

PREDICTABLY, the more imaginative solutions for disposal of the Brent Spar oil storage buoy — notably Pennington's secret plan for a combined offshore European Commission, Court and Parliament — have not made Shell's shortlist of six contractors and 11 schemes.

Most of these seem to involve slicing up the underwater part and filling the ensuing giant steel quoits with concrete or fish. Still, the idea of Shell helping to stop coastal erosion or conserve wild food stocks must appeal to the chaps in public relations.

All such schemes are better than the original plan to sink Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Not that this scheme was desparately bad in this individual case. Despite ministers' stout denials, it was all too clearly a precedent for dumping everything else from

the North Sea into a giant underwater scrapheap. Even if each case were treated "on its individual merits", the merits of cheapness would be as compelling for dumping conventional rigs as for scuttling Brent Spar.

The scuttle remains a possibility because it is still the only solution approved by Whitehall. Anyone who still doubts the case for some of the less popular privatisations should ponder this. Had the North Sea industry remained in state control, public opinion would be ignored to appease the Treasury.

The owner should not be the regulator, whether State or private. In this case, as in the BSE affair, the State could not even be trusted as a supposedly independent regulator. The cost to the company still became paramount because much of that would be recovered in tax relief.

Over and out

WE must assume the battle for Lloyds Chemists is all over now, the Germans having no private shareholders to dissuade them from overpaying. Admittedly, the bid seems to have been going on since England last won a cricket tour, but it will in fact be a year on Saturday since the first bid was launched. It probably isn't, but this at least feels like some sort of stock market record.



Peter Wood, left, chief executive of Ellis & Everard, with John Samuel, its finance director, yesterday.

Tomkins chief bemoans lack of City recognition

By PAUL DURMAN

AN ENCOURAGING debut contribution from Gates Corporation, the transmission belts company bought last year for £753 million, helped Tomkins to lift first-half pretax profits by 34 per cent to £168.8 million.

However, Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, said that he was "increasingly frustrated" at the City's reluctance to acknowledge the company's progress. In spite of growing earnings and dividends, Tomkins' share price has lagged the market for several years, held back by the adverse sentiment towards conglomerates. Tomkins is commonly known as the "guns to buns" group, its manufacturing interests spanning everything from Hovis loaves to Smith & Wesson handgrips.

Mr Hutchings ruled out using the group's £367 million of net cash to finance a buyback of shares, a favourite City option. He said that Tomkins can see many opportunities to invest, though the work of integrating Gates will probably rule out a big deal for another year or so.

In the 27 weeks to November

sales rose from £1.73 billion to £2.16 billion, including £260 million from Gates. Excluding Gates and currency effects, the underlying organic growth in operating profits was more than 10 per cent.

Ruily diluted earnings per share rose 17.8 per cent. Tomkins will pay an interim dividend of 3.06p a share, up 13 per cent on April 11.

Gates, included for only 14 weeks, contributed a profit of £20 million. Tomkins has introduced stricter financial

controls and is spending \$30 million on new information systems. It believes that it will be able to double stock turn, releasing large amounts of cash, and hopes eventually to be able to make savings of \$12 million a year.

Tomkins is cutting costs at all Gates' 43 plants which also make hoses and connectors. However, the company sees no need for the substantial job losses or plant closures that followed its 1992 purchase of Rank Hovis McDougall.

Tomkins increased profits in five of its six divisions, the exception being professional, garden & leisure, where they increased to £85 million (£8.9 million). Sales of handgrips fell back after a surge, while Murray power mowers countered pricing pressure.

The milling & baking division lifted its contribution to £15.4 million (£13.7 million), with British Bakeries doing well. Food Products, the biggest division, increased profits to £42.6 million (£35.9 million), with good performances from ready meals and Robertson's jam.

Hutchings, "frustration"

Ellis & Everard, the chemical distributor, is to target North America for its next acquisitions after its British companies helped it to return record profits for the six months to October 31.

Peter Wood, chief executive, said that after its £16.5 million of acquisitions last year, the company was turning its attention to the US where the market was much more fragmented. It is already North America's fifth-largest distributor of chemicals while commanding only 2 per cent of the market.

The company had cash of £19.7 million at the end of the six months, with gearing at 21 per cent (16 per cent). Its US operations, which make up 53 per cent of sales, delivered the strongest performance as gains in its food chemicals markets offset a slide in margins from its established cosmetics markets.

The strength of the pound trimmed £100,000 from its pre-tax profits, which rose 20 per cent to £15.6 million. Mr Wood gave warning, however, that the figure was likely to be £600,000 by the year-end if the strong exchange rate remained in force.

Volume gains lifted sales 8 per cent, to £319 million. Earnings were 11.8p per share (10.4p), and an interim dividend of 3.3p is due March 11.

Tempus, page 30

Chemicals firm looks to expand US stake

By PAUL DURMAN

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Tempus, page 30

Boots reports cosmetic boost

By ERIC REGULY

A LAST-MINUTE Christmas shopping spree spared Boots from reporting disappointing sales in what has been a generally lacklustre season on the high street.

Boots said sales were slow through most of December but rebounded in the last week, boosting group like-for-like sales 6 per cent in the last quarter of the year. Lord Blyth, chief executive, described the seasonal tally as no more than "satisfactory".

Like-for-like performance in the Chemists division showed a 5.1 per cent rise, with cosmetics and personal care products proving the hottest-selling

items. Boots Opticians reported a 12.2 per cent increase while the Do It All stores appear to have left the worst behind them with a 5.5 per cent improvement.

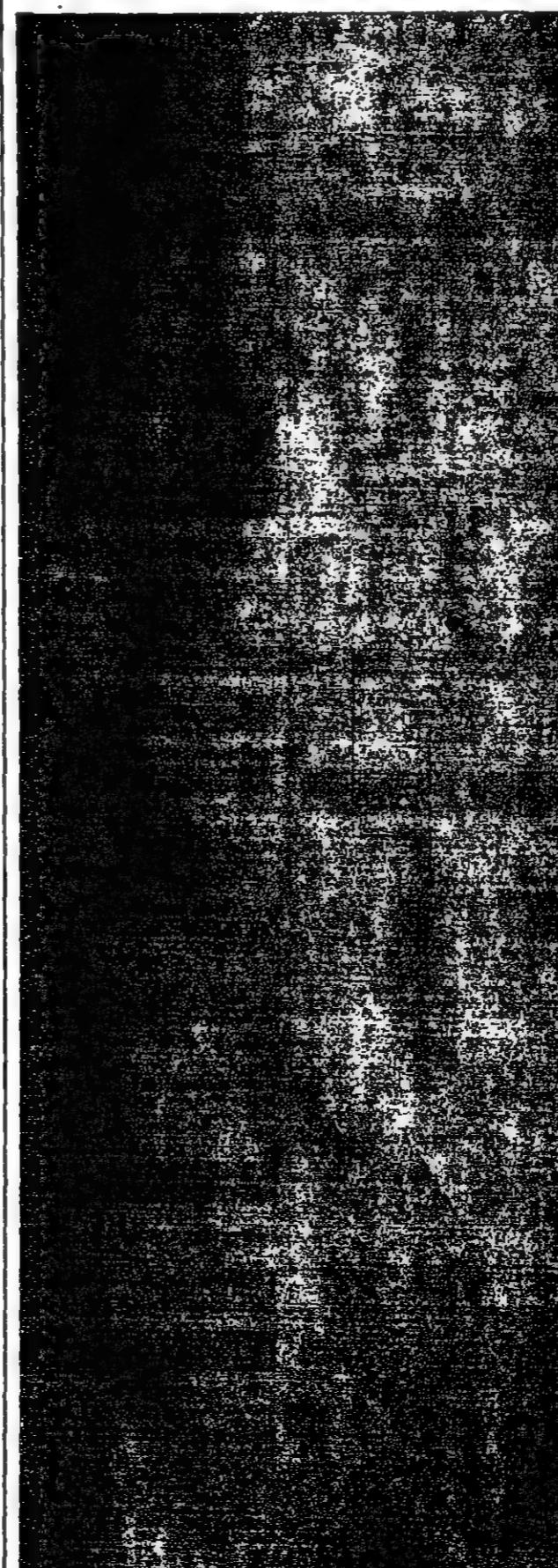
Halfords, owner of the Bike Shop, was the only business to report a decline, with sales down 3 per cent. Boots blamed the downturn on the harsh weather, though analysts were not entirely convinced by the explanation. Parimone Gordon, the broker, said it would probably leave its full-year earnings forecast for Boots unchanged at £540 million. The shares closed up 13.2p at 625p.

Other retailers reported mixed results as the industry failed to reap the full benefits of the economic recovery. Like-for-like sales

at Next, the clothing retailer, were up 9 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 11. Sales at Next Direct, the home shopping catalogue, were 26 per cent ahead. The shares gained 12.5p to 541.5p.

Sales, excluding petrol, at Wm Morrison Supermarkets rose only 1.2 per cent in the five weeks to January 5. Fierce competition pushed petrol sales down 13 per cent in the period. Shareholders were disappointed by the trading results of Whitbread. The shares fell 21.5p to 740p, as the brewing-leisure group rang up an 8 per cent increase in sales in the five-week period starting December 1.

Tempus, page 30



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**THE
TIMES**

**CITY
DIARY**

**Ticked off over
£1m signing**

ANDREW COOK, the boss of William Cook, had his first scent of victory yesterday, in the face of the hostile bid from fellow metal-basher Triplex Lloyd and its chief executive, Graham Lockyer.

A major shareholder had withdrawn its support for Triplex, he trumpeted, taking £1 million worth of shares out of the enemy's camp. To celebrate, he composed another of the snappy silver-tongued soundbites he has become so famous for. "If all Mr Lockyer can say to justify the bid is that both companies dip metal into moulds, I feel very worried for Triplex," Lloyd's shareholders waxed.

Easy, tiger. Step forward a rather red-faced Jim Cox, director of UK investments at Schroders, who sheepishly explained that the merchant bank had signed its £1 million to Triplex by mistake; someone in the building "ticked the wrong box" on the acceptance form.

Snout to laugh at

CONGRATULATIONS to Cedric on the birth of her seven piglets. The sow that was curiously named after Cedric Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, is naming her offspring after the "fat cat" of the privatised industries. One has already been christened Desmond after Sir Desmond Pitcher, the United Utilities boss. The GMB general union Cedric's owner, who revealed in this column that its prize pig was pregnant, is said to be delighted by the news.



"I can remember when the bidding first started"

Write off

JOHN TINER, the part-time author and head of Arthur Andersen Financial Markets since 1993, will be struggling to find time to write. He has just been promoted from head of AAFM's UK practice to head of its worldwide practice. The Bank of England investigation into the Barings collapse, investigating the \$1bn loss by Daiwa Bank in New York, recommending the way forward for the Bank of England's supervisory arrangements and assisting Imro with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell are just some of the strings to his bow.

GULF Canada is warned — Clyde Petroleum was in top form at the oil and gas industry annual quiz. But is it any wonder when you hear how easy the questions were. For example, who is president of Gulf Canada?

Hardern luck

THE irrepressible Michael Hardern is reeling after hearing that there is no vacancy this year on the board of Loughborough Building Society. Too bad then that the chief carpetbagger backed Andrew Martin, a local IT manager, to stand for election. On the basis that four directors were voted in last year, three seats will be available next year, and five in 1999. Hardern is claiming that it's an incredible coincidence. Meanwhile, Geoff Caves, deputy chief executive and secretary at the Loughborough, insists "It is pure coincidence."

MORAG PRESTON



Sir Charles Clore, known as the "takeover king", who founded the British Shoe Corporation which, at its height, dominated shoe retailing

Sears needs the Clore magic to step back into City favour

When the legendary Sir Charles Clore, founder of the Sears retailing empire, was asked for the secret of his success, he would reply: "Find the opportunity and work hard." No one claims that Liam Strong, chief executive of Sears for the past five years, does not work hard. But his record for finding and making the most of opportunities is patchy — to say the least.

The £395 million sale of Freemans to Littlewoods is viewed as an effort to satisfy increasingly disgruntled investors, who can now expect to receive \$410 million through a share buy-back this year. As one cynical analyst put it: "Strong is using shareholders' money to bribe shareholders in order to save his own skin." But while the deal may buy him time, it is hardly a coup for Mr Strong — the previous management at Sears paid £477 million for the business nine years ago.

If some resolution were found to the problems at the British Shoe Corporation, still the UK's largest shoe-seller although a shadow of its former self, then it would be a genuine coup. But analysts say that Mr Strong's strategy of spinning down market with the self-service Shoe Express has failed as shoe sales from clothing retailers such as Next and Marks & Spencer have continued to grow. A more drastic move, such as selling or demerging BSC, or even closing it down, would be expensive and is not likely to happen for several months.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, says that Mr Strong still has his full backing, but he could not protect him if big investors ganged up, and they are waiting for meetings with Sears in the next few days to decide whether what he has proposed is enough to justify his £445,000 pay. Analysts say that the lack of any obvious replacement could turn out to be Mr Strong's trump card.

But whoever is in charge, the end of BSC would leave Sears bearing very little relation to the group built up by Sir Charles. The constant slimming down initiated by the fast-talking Mr Strong, who was recruited from British Airways' marketing department, would have been anathema to the founder, who was dubbed "the takeover king".

Sir Charles bought the J Sears (True Form Boot) company, which was founded in 1912, for £4 million in 1954

Sarah Cunningham on the prospects for Liam Strong after the Freemans disposal

and changed its name to Sears Holdings the following year. A year later he added Dolcis and Manfield and then formed the British Shoe Corporation in 1957 to embrace his footwear interests. Over the next ten years he added Mappin & Webb and Garrard & Co, as well as Selfridges in Oxford Street and Lewis Department Stores to his empire.

The son of an East End tailor who had emigrated from Russia to escape anti-Semitic violence, Charlie Clore's extraordinary career began when he bought and then sold the South African film rights to the Turney-Dempsey world heavyweight championship fight in 1924. He went on to buy Cricklewood ice-skating rink and the Prince of Wales Theatre in Leicester Square, and later added the Furness Shipbuilding Company.

Sears Holdings, which was largely

managed by his old friend Leonard Saimer, soon became a mighty force in retailing. British Shoe Corporation included the Dolcis, Lilley & Skinner, Manfield and Freeman Hardy Willis chains and at its height was responsible for one in four UK shoe sales.

Sir Charles died in 1974 a tax-exile in Monaco, but his story did not end there. He wanted his £100 million fortune to go to charity but became snared in a legal tug-of-war between the Inland Revenue and Alan Clore, his son. Even more bizarrely, four years after Sir Charles's death his butler, Ronald Headford, who had continued to live in his late employer's Monte Carlo home, committed suicide after being accused of stealing art treasures worth £3 million from the house.

Sears, meanwhile, was being managed by the urbane Michael Pickard, who started to modernise the group,



Sir Charles launching the Cathy McGowan "Trend Steppers" in 1966

ditching Mappin & Webb and William Hill, the bookmaker, and introducing Olympus Sport and Adams, the childrenswear chain.

In his first two years, Strong sought to accelerate the process. He disposed of the BSC shoe factories, along with Galiford housebuilding, Fosters and Your Price menswear retailing, and property investment. He has since sold Olympus Sport and Hush Puppy shoes. In their place came Richards, the women's wear chain developed by Sir Terence Conran, Shoe Express and the out-of-town Shoe City sheds.

At first things seemed to go his way and in April 1994 he felt he could say "we are no longer in the recovery phase". But the company was soon back on the critical list. Analysts say that anyone who thinks Mr Strong, who had no retailing experience before starting at Sears, is being judged harshly should take a look at the group's share price performance — 100p when he took over and now 88p, bolstered by the prospect of a buyback.

The most embarrassing episode for Mr Strong came last year when Facia, the retail business built up by Stephen Hinchliffe, collapsed and the leases on the 380 shoe shops Mr Strong had "sold" to that company reverted to Sears. There were always doubts about how Mr Hinchliffe could manage his array of retailing operations. The doubts, which appeared not to penetrate the Sears boardroom, eventually reached the Department of Trade and Industry, which started proceedings to disqualify him as a director.

It is accepted that Sears is an extraordinarily difficult business to manage, but apparent miracles have happened in retailing before. Next went from being City darling to pariah and then regained its darling status after the management changed. Burton has been transformed under John Hoerner, its amiable American chief executive.

The glory days of Sears are long gone but it still has Selfridges and some strong clothing brands, and even its competitors want it to recover some of its sparkle. A big-spending empire-builder would not be right for the times, but a bit of Clore's famous Midas touch would go down a treat. As one head of a major high street retailer said: "There aren't many merchant princes out there, but what Sears needs is a merchant prince."

Japan's economic helmsmen are already tacking through the treacherously narrow sea channel between Scylla and Charybdis. But their navigational task is being made almost impossible by an aggressive flotilla of foreign craft, sailing under the flag of self-interest and market orthodoxy, harassing them from all sides.

For a nation that has, to many Western eyes, often seemed so self-reliant, so inward-looking, Japan now subjects itself to an extraordinary degree to outside pressures and opinion.

The most recent example came last week when its business and financial leaders politely listened to a lecture from none other than Kenneth Clarke on why Japan ought to undertake structural reform of its economy and presumably become, like Britain, an international economic success story. One can only admire our Chancellor's cheek, but can one really imagine the future if Japan's Finance Minister came to London and pontificated on how to emulate Japan's record on manufacturing exports, investment and permanently low unemployment?

Japan's relationship with America is a far more important example of Tokyo bending to the international will. US insistence that Japan act to curb its huge trade surplus led to a sharp appreciation in the yen, leading to recession and then stagnation, which has made it hard for Japan to recover from the bursting of its 1980s-style asset price bubble.

Having been brought to its knees — in relative terms — Japan is still not free to pursue its own national interest. On one hand, it is still being hemmed in by America on the matter of trade. Yesterday, Japan's latest current account figures were published and showed a continuing, but slowing, decline in the surplus that attracts such international ire. Far from applauding the fact that the yen's depreciation from its postwar high of 79.75 to the dollar in April 1995, is now helping to inject some much-needed exporting power back into an otherwise hamstrung economy, the Japanese authorities are frightened to enjoy this breath of economic life.

Scared that further falls in the yen and a halt to the process of cutting its current account surplus will start another round of brow-beating from America and others, Japan is being forced to accept a higher level of unemployment.

Japan undoubtedly faces serious long-term economic problems, but is the solution to saddle itself with the economic (and fiscal) woes of mass unemployment that face other mature industrialised countries? A cynic might conclude that America and others are happy for Japan to fail its own people economically as long as it continues to provide a market for their exports and buyers for their government bonds.



JANET
BUSH

Japan bows to its critics

from America, the Japanese finance ministry was at pains yesterday to reassure Washington that its current account surplus is still shrinking. And, even as the stock market has plunged since the new year, the authorities have made it clear that they do not want a further softening of the yen. So Japan, already unable to lower interest rates any further to stimulate the economy, is denying through the exchange rate. At the same time, it is under enormous pressure from the gatekeepers of the prevailing world economic orthodoxy to tighten fiscal policy. This was one of the main new year messages from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. There is no doubt that the years of fiscal stimulation in the 1990s have left Japan with a budget problem, but it is highly questionable whether this should be tackled while the economic recovery — and particularly the banking system — is still so vulnerable. Japan faces a critical situation in which economists are busy calculating how far the Nikkei stock market index has to fall for Japanese banks to fail to meet international capital adequacy standards. At the same time, they are arguing that, if Japan fails to raise taxes, the stock market will fall even more catastrophically.

So, Japan is being denied full use of monetary and fiscal policy. On top of this, as Mr Clarke's contribution last week suggested, Japan is being told on all sides that it must restructure its economy, deregulate its financial system and open up its markets. In its latest report, the OECD praises Japan's exceptional record on employment but says that economic restructuring will naturally mean having to accept a higher level of unemployment.

Japan undoubtedly faces serious long-term economic problems, but is the solution to saddle itself with the economic (and fiscal) woes of mass unemployment that face other mature industrialised countries? A cynic might conclude that America and others are happy for Japan to fail its own people economically as long as it continues to provide a market for their exports and buyers for their government bonds.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Needless surrender of hard-won funds for an annuity

From Mr Peter M. Smith
Sir, As someone who frequently advises the "end users" of pension schemes, I am often saddened by the waste and futility of people surrendering their hard-won funds to insurers in the purchase of annuities. The insurance industry even has a ghastly jargon title for this process: "compulsory purchase annuities".

Whilst annuities can remain as the ultimate income provision for those who are security conscious, there is no real reason in these days of investment sophistication why pension holders should ever have to annuitise their funds. The

recent correspondence in your column has brought this out clearly.

The legal and practical objections to eliminating compulsory annuity purchase are quite slim. A tax adjustment could be made on the ultimate passing out of the pension fund to the family of a deceased member, if this was thought appropriate.

Pension funds may well be needed to pay the costs of long-term care and the inflexibility of annuities is often inappropriate. Unfortunately, it seems likely that only a substantial proles will convince the authorities that the sequestration

of money contributed largely

by the public for its own retirement should cease. Any one who thinks similarly should write to their Member of Parliament.

However, MPs are beneficiaries of a "fixed salary" scheme, but maybe a switch to "money purchase" pensions would concentrate their minds a bit.

Yours faithfully,

PETER M. SMITH,
Editor, Financial & Tax Planning Through Pensions.

The Laurels,

Weybridge Park,

Weybridge,
Surrey.

Power prices have a long way to fall

From Mr Gordon K. Moore
Sir, David Porter (Business Letters, December 31) states that prices for electricity customers are being driven down relentlessly. Compared with 1991 prices of 4d per unit running costs for East Midlands consumers, they have a long way to fall yet, 40 units for £1, then allowing for RPI changes (ONS figures) the cost today should be 32 for £1.

Modern technology, greater thermal efficiency, improved load factor and the benefits of R and D, should all combine to reduce the price even further.

Despite the difficulties of the post-war decade, running costs of 4d per unit for domestic consumers was wonderful value, not matched today. The excellent appliance hire scheme, with prompt free maintenance, no longer exists.

Clearly there is a far more costly supply and significantly less service today — why?

Yours faithfully,

GORDON K. MOORE
St. Clare's Close,
Farley Road,
Littleover Hill,
Derby.

Alternative measures of a company's prosperity

From Mr David H. O'Brien
Sir, It is no surprise that directors are biased towards shareholders' expectations (Philip Bassett, December 20, 1995). Share prices are the only measures of company performance available to other stakeholders.

Environmental protection legislation and ever-tightening business regulations have caused companies to measure factors which were previously dismissed as unmeasurable or of no consequence to companies' prosperity. Directors and other employees are beginning to appreciate that personal behaviour can adversely affect the consents by which businesses operate.

Businesses can be brought into balance only when the total workforce appreciates

A question of honour and the failure of self-regulation at Lloyd's

From Mero Tetby
Sir, I am extremely dismayed that David Rowland should head the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his having "launched Lloyd's on its new path".

Are memories really so short? This new path was necessary only because the Council of Lloyd's, of which Mr Rowland was a prominent member, failed miserably to execute its self-regulatory duties and to prevent its self-inflicted crisis.

Let us remember that the failure of the Council of Lloyd's to self-regulate allowed the emergence of malignant practices such as the LMX spiral/churning, gross misrepresentation, incompetence and negligence, and for these to run riot.

It was these practices that led directly to the worst reported losses in the history of Lloyd's PR, to financial ruin

impose on transfers to the Special Reserve Fund.

This meant that the affected names, like myself, were presented last month with a disagreeable choice. They had either to raise the money they intended to transfer elsewhere at very short notice, possibly incurring interest, or, they would have been forced to forgo the appreciable benefits of careful financial

and taxation planning. I think most names concerned would have been less put out by the delay if the deadline for the Special Reserve Transfer had been adjusted accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE BOYLE,
Beacon Hill House,
Langbar,
Ilkley,
West Yorkshire.

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BRIEFINGS

Two new agents have been appointed by Linc, the Local Investment Networking Company, set up in 1987 as a non-profit-making business angels organisation matching private investors to companies seeking finance. The new agents, bringing the total to 12, are Cardiff & Vale Enterprise, serving South Wales, and the CBV Enterprise Centre, covering south London, Surrey and Sussex. Details: 0171-236 3000.

□ A fifth of Britain's micro businesses are run by people whose main motivation is to avoid unemployment and who claim to have no alternative, says the latest survey by NatWest and the Small Business Research Trust. Nearly a third of businesses also told researchers they wanted to remain at their existing size.

□ A set of three computer disks to help small businesses to chase debts has been developed by CCA Software in conjunction with a firm of solicitors. The software's functions include threatening letters in suitable legal wording, documents for county court actions, and other legal advice. The disks cost £24.95 each, plus VAT. Details: 0161-429 7095.

□ An information technology diagnostic service has been introduced by Kingston Chamber of Commerce in Surrey, offering a day's free consultancy to member businesses that want advice on matters such as which equipment to buy and how to upgrade. Details: 0181-296 9595.

Keeping them in stitches

David Askham on
a thriving small
business that
kits out keen
cross-stitchers

Jane Greenoff had trained as a state registered nurse, but when she was expecting her first child in 1983 she took up something quite different. She and a neighbour each invested £50 and began designing and marketing cross-stitching kits. After becoming the sole proprietor, she called her new business the Inglesstone Collection. Today, the name of her cottage, and gradually built up sales.

She designed exclusive patterns of Cowslip scenes, assembled and packaged the components and travelled around her local area marketing her creations. Kits, which range from £3.50 to £45, make life easier for both novices and more accomplished cross-stitchers.

Bill, her husband, joined the business full time in February 1990. Mr Greenoff's career had been in banking, but in his spare time he was already handling much of the Inglesstone Collection business accounting.

In the early days, Mrs Greenoff had employed an agent for marketing her kits out of area. Only when her husband took over this role did they realise the huge advantage of a dedicated marketing effort. A good



Bill and Jane Greenoff show off some of their successful range of Inglesstone Collection cross-stitch kits

example of Jane Greenoff's early initiative was her offer to produce a design of Liberty's architecturally interesting store in London. She even demonstrated her cross-stitching skills in-store and her presentation skills led to her co-presenting a commercial video with Pam Ayres. Mrs Greenoff also became a prolific author of books on cross-stitching.

The Greenoffs employ several full and part-time workers in a

small workshop in Fairford, Gloucestershire, meeting demand throughout the UK, Europe and North America. Despite having produced about 1,000 original designs, Mrs Greenoff says: "We maintain around 250 of our current designs and aim to produce 45-50 new ones every year. We are constantly inspired by scenes and subjects from the natural world. We have also expanded our range

to include gold and platinum

needles, stitcher's jewellery and reproduction ivory and mahogany stitcher gifts."

Earlier this year the Greenoffs launched The Cross Stitch Guild, which has its headquarters in Longleat, near Warminster. Already 2,175 members have enrolled who receive a special bimonthly guild newsletter.

The Inglesstone Collection is on

01255 712778.

Home advantage for businesswomen

By RODNEY HOBSON

The experience of running a family gives women the edge when organising and setting up a business, research by Barclays Bank indicates. After talking to 400 small businesses run by men and women, the bank concluded that women's key advantages over men include being better dealing with people, being better organised and having a greater determination to succeed.

Yet men feel work pressure cause their home life to deteriorate. The latest issue of *Barclays Review*, a newsletter for small businesses, says most respondents expect to see more women entrepreneurs in the future. The main motivation, Barclays found, is independence. Making a lot of money becomes important only when the business has been running for some time, especially for younger women.



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■ VISUAL ART 1
Defiant and unclassifiable, Tony Cragg's big new sculptures go on show at the Whitechapel



■ VISUAL ART 2
... while in Spain an earlier sculptural genius — the inspirational Medardo Rosso — is celebrated



■ VISUAL ART 3
Patron in the frame: Janet de Botton tells why she is giving 56 works to the new Tate at Bankside



■ TOMORROW
How to hit Broadway: a new book reveals how top musicals are constructed

VISUAL ART: Exhibitions of ground-breaking sculptors a century apart; and a public airing for a private collection

Beauty found in our daily junk

At the Whitechapel Richard Cork notes that custom, and fame, have not stalled Tony Cragg's infinite variety

Now in his late forties, and enjoying an extensive international reputation, Tony Cragg might have been tempted to slip into complacency and repetition. He did, after all, play a prolific and inventive part in revitalising British sculpture throughout the 1980s. Working first with plastic and other discarded materials, scavenged from beaches or the streets of Wuppertal, in Germany, where he settled 20 years ago, Cragg discovered how to turn even the most ordinary objects into powerful, provocative forms.

Now, in his first exhibition for an English public gallery since 1989, he is displaying work of the 1990s at the Whitechapel. And although his preoccupations remain consistent with the young artist whose emergence excited so much interest, there is no sense here of standing still. Quite the opposite: Cragg seems incessantly on the move.

The hefty dimensions of several pieces in the Whitechapel's main, nave-like space might tempt us to suspect him of succumbing to middle-aged monumentalism. But the size of Cragg's largest recent works is deceptive. Rather than degenerating into grandiosities, they can be ranked among his most unpredictable, deft and mysterious inventions.

Take the brazen, form-crazing across the floor of the street-level gallery. It bulges as wantonly as a series of newly inflated, interconnected balloons. But there is nothing overblown about its invasion of space. Sprouting an outside nipple, at one end, and curling up like a plump tail at the other, this engorged apparition seems quite capable of undergoing a transformation. The title of the work has already been altered. Originally called *Buoy*, it is now listed as *Boy*. Although such a change may seem merely capricious, it underlines the density of meanings which Cragg's

sculpture can harbour. Despite its apparent bulk, this work is made from lightweight Styrofoam and kevlar. If therefore appears eminently fit for floating in the most turbulent sea, but its swellings are at the same time organic and erotic enough to evoke the human body.

Viewed in this light, the shifting title makes sense. Cragg's devout

Even the grandest ensembles turn out to be vulnerable

ing curiosity about the interplay between himself and his surroundings ensures that he never sees anything in isolation. No sooner has a shape manifested itself in his mind than it starts to shed one identity, and become something else. That is why his mercurial presences, displayed upstairs at the fruit of a productive recent period at the Henry Moore Studio in Dean Clough, Halifax, are so enlivening.

At once flowing and witty, his defining line seizes on the essence of a form with ease. But just as the contours of a vessel become clear on the paper, we realise that it is changing into a land-mass. Or, rather, the two possibilities coexist in the same image.

Cragg's restless intelligence as a draughtsman is reminiscent of Leonardo's. An instinctive fascination with science unites both men, and so does a refusal to regard scientific issues as separate from other concerns in their inquiring minds. The time, Cragg spent working as a laboratory technician

before going to art school must have been illuminating, and probably ignited his enduring involvement with beakers and condensers of all kinds.

At the outset of his career, Cragg's vessels were usually found objects made of plastic. Now he is more likely to make them himself, but his ability to persuade us of their surprising expressiveness is undiminished. Sandblasted glass bottles of different sizes and shapes bristle as they project from every side of *Spyrogyra*, where a whirling steel frame seems on the point of setting them in ecstatic motion. Their subdued colours, ranging from soft blue and green to rich brown and a dusty plum redolent of long storage in wine-cellars, are seductive. But the bottles also threaten to spiral out of control, and a neighbouring cornucopia has already descended to the floor.

Even the grandest ensembles

turn out to be vulnerable. Both versions of *Formulifera* present us with bleached plaster forms, some lying like broken pieces of classical architecture and others balanced on stool holders that resemble precarious trestles. These white presences may derive from commanders, but they end up looking otherworldly and tantalising. Moreover, their surfaces are punctured with holes, like porous rock worn away by the action of water.

Similar references to the man-made and the natural can be found in many of Cragg's works. At his most bizarre, he smothers a green piano and several nearby chairs in a glistening, menacing blizzard of small metal hooks. But the same implements also spring out of timber pieces lodged inexplicably among the furniture, suggesting that nothing can escape the hooks' rapacious advance.

Cragg, however, is not a pessimist. Sardonic humour erupts in his most macabre work, most notably when he exposes the pi-



Untitled (1993): "At his most bizarre, Cragg smothers a green piano and several chairs in a menacing blizzard of small metal hooks"

ter teeth of a primordial skeleton in a sculpture called *Complete Omnipotence*. Redoubtable in size, they are on one level grotesque manifestations of grinding power. They are also wryly funny, and acknowledge that humanity's survival has depended on its capacity to feed off matter of all kinds. Cragg could himself be described as omnivorous in his attitude to materials. If plastic cannot be found in this exhibition, he is still prepared to go far beyond the sculptor's traditional wood, stone and bronze. Indeed, he has always been able to persuade us that late 20th-century materials are just as beguiling as their predecessors.

From a distance, *Nautilus* may

seem to be hewn from white marble. The fact that it is made of Styrofoam and fibreglass may alter our preception of the work, but does not impair its ability to delight. The five bulbous yet elegant forms congregating so densely on a circular ledge are complemented, like a reflection, by five more below. The title suggests that Cragg may have taken the wriggling bodies of cuttlefish or octopus as his springboard. By the time he finished with them, though, their resemblance to molluscs was no longer dominant.

Over the past few years, as his

sculpture has grown more audacious in formal terms, Cragg has

resisted any attempt to identify a

particular work as a single, nameable object. If molluscs did indeed nourish him at the start of *Nautilus*, its forms are now equally suggestive of mones, jugs, pillars and a host of different organisms.

Everything, in Cragg's encompassing vision of the world, is interrelated. He appears as fascinated by molecules as by mountains, and in an outstanding two-piece work called *Secretions* the minuscule and the majestic are both kept at the forefront of our attention. In the lower of the two parts, vessels seem once again the starting-point for these enigmatic forms. But they are soon overtaken by a rush of other possibilities, and the higher, more Baroque part

rears into the air like some fantastic, twisted outcrop. Inspection discloses that the whole of *Secretions*' surface is studded with hundreds of dice. They are a marvellously poetic way of showing how even the most awesome structures are built up, and how chance plays its part in determining the shape of the world. Cragg's work is replete with such insights, as this triumphant exhibition shows.

• Tony Cragg, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (0171-522 7831 until March 9). Cragg's latest large sculpture, *Pillars of Salt*, is on view at the Lissom Gallery, 52-54 Bell Street, London NW1 (0171-722 2739) by appointment only

Impressionist in wax

A Spanish show of work by the 19th-century sculptor Medardo Rosso is attracting worldwide attention

Tony Cragg says that Rosso transformed the practice of making sculpture into a form of thinking with material". Thomas Schütte sees his sculptures as "roughly sketched shapes, the tiny crumbs which remain as the most thrilling of the 19th-century". Juan Munoz, describing the work as écriture, says: "The man writes quickly, believing that the best words are those which are worn away at the edges".

So who is this obscure late-19th-century artist who can unite in enthusiasm the erstwhile virtuous of coloured plastic fragments and the leading German and Spanish exponents of the installation? And why is the most comprehensive exhibition ever of Medardo Rosso's work being staged in the Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporáneo, more than a century after most of the pieces were made, and bringing avant-gardists of all persuasions flocking from all over Europe and the Americas in new but equally devout pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela?

Clearly the sculpture speaks to a far more understanding audience now than it did in the 1880s and 1890s. Rosso lived and worked in Paris for much of his life (1858-1928). He was a friend of Rodin, and the temptation is to see him as a close equivalent of Rodin working almost entirely in miniature. Though there are correspondences between a typical Rosso and the liquid, dissolving shapes of Rodin's *Gates of Hell*, in fact the two artists are almost diametrically opposite in their approaches. This is less apparent when Rosso is seen primarily to professionally cast bronzes editioned from his wax originals. But when, as in this epoch-making show,



Head boy: Medardo Rosso's *Bambino Ebreo* (1892-93) — sculpture as "a form of thinking with material"

THE labyrinthine maze of the newly restored Mich gallery is a perfect setting for Steve Farrer's film installation. It is a formal affair, with layers of interwoven imagery. Farrer uses shot film, ready-made film and still photographs, and has them playing in contradictory fashion in an almost Cubistic arrangement. Water on the basement floor reflects back hugely extended family stills, while upstairs a Humphrey Bogart film, playing continuously, changes viewpoint across a triptych of huge screens. The show makes a powerful spatial play between two and three dimensions.

Mich, 144 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-379 4338) until Saturday

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago de Compostela until Feb 23

No more room for the In

Janet de Botton ran out of space for her superb collection of modern art — and the Tate is the beneficiary

Collectors of contemporary art in this country maintain such a low profile that they appear barely to exist. Unlike America, where collecting is a very public occupation, private collectors over here prefer to remain private. So from 1985, when Charles Saatchi opened his gallery in St John's Wood, until very recently, one could be forgiven for thinking that this was the only contemporary art collection in London.

Now, with her recent gift of 50 works to the Tate's new Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside (due to open in 2000), Janet de Botton has also gone public. Her collection was formed at much the same time as that of Saatchi, who de Botton says was major influence on her, and is of similar standing. Art world lore has it that Doris and Charles Saatchi and Janet and Michael Green (de Botton's first husband, now chairman of Carlton) would visit galleries and artists' studios in a foursome in the late 1970s and early 1980s. They shared a taste for what was coming out of New York at that time: works by Andy Warhol, Carl Andre, Julian Schnabel, Robert Ryman, Frank Stella and the photographer Cindy Sherman.

man are among those de Botton has allowed the Tate carte blanche to select for Bankside.

I began collecting in 1976 when we moved out of our little flat into a rather large and empty house in Holland Park. I got a big orange and pink abstract painting by John Hoyland to cheer it up. I thought it was a mistake, so I sent it back, but then I changed my mind."

At first she didn't think of it as collecting. "I wanted to have art around me and to live with it. For me there was a clear step between buying paintings to furnish a house and collecting works you can never hang," de Botton says. The room in which we are talking has two Warhol portraits of Chairman Mao above the sofa. Elsewhere there are works by Julian Schnabel and Cy Twombly, while in another room Richard Long has daubed an Avon mud circle on to the wall.

Lack of space, however, permits her to live with only a fraction of her collection, of which the Tate now has a quarter — "a very good quarter, but not just the most expensive or the best known". The Tate will display its in a special exhibition next year.

possible irony intended by Ade Adepitan's flat, however, in such a generalised onslaught. Around the corner, in a perfectly executed set scene, is a complete Victorian parlour. Yinka Shonibare lights his perfection dramatically. Pictures of the Great Exhibition are hung against the wallpaper print of African textile and black footballer, an image which is repeated again and again in the rug, the "window", and even in the plump, button-backed furniture.

London Printworks Trust, 5th floor,

Unit 14, Brighton House, 9 Brighton

Terrace, London SW9 (0171-738 7841), to

Jan 29

SACHA CRADDOCK



MARTIN BEDDOE
Janet de Botton: "You have to be completely driven to collect"

The remaining 300 works are simply too big to display in a domestic setting. "You know when you buy something at high you can never house it, but you buy it because it is the best work you have seen by that particular artist. It is less painful to put it in storage than not have it at all."

What about the risks involved in buying contemporary art? Mistakes are inevitable, de Botton says, and sometimes you just have to live with them. And that, in turn, trains your eye. "I buy for an instinctive reason and, as I live with a work, it becomes apparent how good or bad it is." Her collection is the best of what was coming out of Europe and America in the late 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. "I find it easier to go with my own generation in collecting," she says. "There is a natural

empathy. The 1980s was a very fertile period for art, but I only ever bought what I liked. Now I can't believe that I had that conviction."

De Botton comes from a family that, through the Wolfson Foundation created by her grandfather and father, has unobtrusively given a good deal of money to museums and art galleries. She does not consider herself to be a serious collector any longer. "My collecting life had a 20-year span and at the moment it does not absorb me in the way that it did. You have to be completely driven to collect. I now tend to add to my collection rather than discover new artists, although I think the interest in British art at the moment, the emergence of 'let's be proud about what's going on', is great."

ISABEL CARLISLE

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LONDON
DREAMINGS — TJI KURUPPA. An impressive collection of Aboriginal art goes on display today at the Concours Galerie. Curated by Donald Friend, the show will feature 40 works by 24 artists, with a further 20 paintings from the Rebecca Hossack Gallery. Concours Galerie, Barbican Centre, EC2Y 5DR. Tel: 0171-638 9000. Tues-Sun 10am-7.30pm; Mon 7-10pm (closed January 24). Until February 16.

THE SHIFT — Andy LaPierre's production uses slide and video technology for Clive Bayley's exploration of crises in the lives of immigrants. From 1947, 1961 and 1991. Royal Exchange Theatre, SE1. Tel: 0171-523 6563. Preview today and tomorrow, 7.45pm. Opens Friday, 4.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Until February 16.

SOUTH BANK — English National Ballet presents Michael Hynd's semi-staged production of Gounod's *Faust*. The Festival Hall is set to Dabell's enchanting score. Performances will be given nightly until Sunday, at 7.30pm, with a 2.30pm matinée on Saturday. The Queen Elizabeth Hall is the venue for the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Andrew Manze introduces and directs a programme of

ART — Alan Farrey, Tom Courtenay and Ian McKellen in an exquisitely interesting drama about insomnia, unspeakable torment and an almost all-white cast. *Matthew's Vow*. Tickets £10-£12.50. Coliseum, WC2. Tel: 0171-369 1730. Tues-Sat, 8pm matinée; Wed, 7.30pm.

BEEF, NO CHICKEN — Dee Wallace's 1970s farce, set in Threadneedle Street, a new motorway threatens Otto Hogan's Auto-Repairs. Author Rod Stone's directorial debut for Trafalgar Theatre Co.

TRYING — 26th Floor, High Road, NW8. Tel: 0171-325 1000. Mon-Sat, 8pm matinée; Wed 2.30pm and 8pm; Sat, 4pm. Until February 1.

THREE SPOTS — *Sexual Lust*. The Upstairs at the Ambassadors, West Street, WC2. Tel: 0171-565 5000. Mon-Sat, 7pm. Until January 25.

GULLS AND DOLLS — Richard Eyre revives his famous production of the Frank Loesser musical *Me and My Girl*. Starring a cast of Mat Adcock, Helen Hunt, Goodman, Clarke Peters and Joanna Ridding. National, Oliver, South Bank, SE1. Tel: 0171-928 2382. Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mat. Tues-Tues. Wed, Thurs, 8pm; Sat, 8pm.

ADAM'S SON — *Adam's Son* (19). Fictional story inspired by the Maze Prison hunger strike, with Helen Mirren. Curzon West End (0171-369 1721). Oxford Street (0171-470 0000). Jarrow Phoenix (0171-352 0071). Tel: 0171-373 2121.

THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES — PGG, Barratt Street and directo's and stars of *Two Faces of January* (1967) return about teachers experimenting with a 20-class manage. With Jeff Bridges. *Odyssey*, Kensington (0171-941665). *Leather Souvenir* (0171-915 683). *Matador* (0171-915 684). *Sex Catalogue* (0126 514068). *Uchi*. *Whitley's* (01990 888990). *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 8096).

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WATERMANS — (1969) *Waterman* (0171-868 1176)

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■ MIME

Larking for a living: the world's top clowns offer Londoners a feast of visual ho-ho



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■ DANCE

Beauty in distress: Darcey Bussell brings a touch of heroics to Covent Garden



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Make 'em laugh, make 'em think

LONDON MIME FESTIVAL:

Kenneth Rea on the enduring power and mystique of modern clowns

It takes a brave imagination to tell the story of Romeo and Juliet, romantically, with an all-male cast of nine clowns. But Théâtre le Ranelagh's version, *Sur la route de Sienne* (*On the Road to Sienna*), is not a crass parody; indeed it underlines the growing power that clowns have in today's theatre. The show captivated the French and is now part of the London International Mime Festival, which opened on Saturday.

Across London more clowns are serving up their own brand of Surrealism to large and awestruck audiences. For an inkling of the clown of the future, take a look at the designer-dressed creatures in Cirque du Soleil's *Satinimbance* at the Albert Hall. Or at Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre, the tragic spectacle of the great Slava Polunin in *Showshow*.

These are not the gaudily dressed clowns of circus rings, but an altogether more enigmatic animal whose pedigree goes back to the Elizabethan jester. Not solely reliant on crude slapstick, they deal in subtlety and sophistication.

Clowns influenced artists such as Modigliani and Picasso, inspired the poets Mallarmé and Baudelaire, and fascinated playwrights from Wedekind to Beckett. They have proliferated in the theatre, while on television, through a new generation of comedians such as Rowan Atkinson and Lee Evans, they have become commentators on our times.

A great clown commands our respect while making us laugh. The clown is the child who sees the world with untainted innocence; he has the licence for madness and unconventional behaviour, but also the impunity to speak the truth. Like the boy who remarks that the Emperor has no clothes, we need the clown to expose the corruption of big business and the sleaze of politics. Through our laughter, the pretentious are deflated. But we also need the clown to remind us to do.

"When I go on stage I want the audience to return to the dreams of their childhood," says Polunin. "This is the main thing. It's a kind of medicine because if we are true to our dreams we are happy. At the end of my show, when I see old people start to push kids aside to play with giant balloons, then something is happening."



Shakespeare without words: one of the nine clowns in the all-male cast gets ready for his role in Théâtre le Ranelagh's spell-binding version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Madona Bouglione, director of Théâtre le Ranelagh, builds dreams for us by reviving the French *pantomime style* of her illustrious circus family, though on a more modest scale. "My grandfather had 150 clowns, with elephants, tigers, crocodiles, snakes and horses," she recalls. "He staged *The Bengal Lancers* as a pantomime. In those days you could get rich with a show. But now I just hope I won't go to jail."

The genre, which was famously depicted in the film *Les Enfants du Paradis*, evolved as a result of 19th-century licensing laws which permitted only the Comédie Française to stage spoken plays in Paris. Silent pantomime was a popular way of circumventing the monopoly, and it stayed.

Applying the family recipe to *Romeo and Juliet*, Bouglione condensed the story to 15 lines, com-

pled a soundtrack of lush music that unashamedly juxtaposed Wagner and Nino Rota, then collaborated with the Russian clown Valery Keft — a student of Polunin — to marry circus skills, mime and Shakespeare.

Thus Romeo reaches Juliet's balcony by walking on water — or rather on a series of blocks placed under a rippling sheet of blue silk. And although Juliet is really a bespectacled young man in a frock, when they dance together through the swirling dry ice, the effect is more romantic than anything you might watch at the RSC. And when the Montagues clash with the Capulets, there is a thrilling cascade of jiggled knives and bodies tumbling through the air.

At first glance there might seem to be a tension between the natural anarchy of a clown and the discipline needed to tell a story

concisely, but Bouglione and Keft have moulded a rhythm and temperament quite different from that of the circus.

"In the circus you must be immediately effective," explains Bouglione. "You have only five or six minutes so you're not looking to say anything very profound. The most important thing is to be funny very quickly."

But in the theatre, she says, the audience is closer. "You can take the time to tell stories. You can use silence and be very romantic and emotional. Technique is so important for a clown, though. You must rehearse and rehearse until it's totally inside you."

As Polunin points out, circus clowns are a relatively recent phenomenon anyway: they didn't cross over from the stage to the big

top until the 19th century when circuses, especially the American ones, became bigger and glitzier.

"By the 1950s the virtuosity of the clown reached its peak, but he lost his soul," says Polunin. "Against that background the theatre tradition of the clown was reborn. The theatre clown wanted to capture simplicity, warmth and naivety. He wanted to return to the poetry that was lost in the circus. Another reason is that the 20th century is essentially the century of intellectual man. Just to see somebody kicking somebody else was not enough to make him happy. So the new type of clown was trying to introduce to his art new ideas on a more intellectual level."

The circus clown is a grotesque, a caricature, but the modern clown is getting closer and closer to a psychological character. My clown figure is not just a caricature. He is a tragic-comic hero — a modern Don Quixote."

The art of the clown is one of the most gruelling of all the performing arts, for it demands both the courage to expose your vulnerability and the confidence to express your personal vision of the world. Like something out of an actor's nightmare, you are sent naked onto the stage without a script, armed only with your imagination.

This is the reason Bouglione insists that her clowns must know why they are there. "A clown who doesn't have something to say doesn't need to go on the stage," she says. "He may give immediate pleasure but he leaves no souvenir in the audience's mind. If he doesn't have this he becomes merely a circus clown."

● London International Mime Festival, until Jan 26 (details 0171-57 5004). Showshow, until Jan 30 (0171-312 1994).

Two for the price of one

IF WE didn't know it before, we know it now: Darcey Bussell is not only a star: she is also a real trouper. Picture the scene on Saturday night at Covent Garden. Only minutes to go before the curtain rises on *The Sleeping Beauty* and Bussell is in her dressing room fighting back the flu. But she does not want to disappoint her audience, so she summons up the strength to don tutu and greasepaint and out she trots for Act I.

This only happens to be the most gruelling test of a ballerina's skills in all of classical ballet, one that defeats many a healthy dancer, let alone a sick one. And what did the ailing Bussell do? She produced a most ravishing display of bountiful classicism, exciting in its ambition and breathtaking in its realisation. Her self-possession as a performer

DANCE

Sleeping Beauty
Covent Garden

is always impressive; on Saturday night it was little short of miraculous. She was a radiant, gleaming Aurora, a ballerina who embraced Petipa's demanding choreography with rapture and confidence.

The Rose Adagio balances were taken at the pace of molasses on a cold day, drawn out to such an extent that Viktor Fedotov almost ran out of music to conduct. Whether she was trying to conserve her energy or whether she just wanted to cherish each and every balance, the effect was the same — sheer magic as she made the mark.

Her solo was no less wonderful: nimble footwork, voluptuous extensions and dazzling backends. Those who had paid to see Bussell could have had no cause to complain after that, even though the exertions of Act I meant she was unable to complete the ballet. Belinda Hatley, who was waiting in the wings, was called in to replace Bussell at the beginning of Act II and became the lucky girl to be awoken by Stuart Cassidy's handsome Prince.

Although we lost the continuity of characterisation with the change of ballerina, we were treated to some lovely dancing. Hatley has a very expressive style, one that quietly makes its point in delicate, well-thought-out phrases. She was well partnered by Cassidy, whose solos were also attractively delivered. In the pit, Fedotov was going great guns, producing a rousing account of Tchaikovsky's score and helping the dancers along wherever necessary by adjusting tempos.

DEBRA CRANE

CLASSICAL RECORDS

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3



RAVEL'S MIRRORS

Reviewed by Bryce Morrison
RAVEL'S *Miroirs* form a scintillating paradox, though one in which widely conflicting ideas are resolved by the composer's deeply personal symbolism and by his tireless search for "technical perfection". Understandably, such an interplay of objective and subjective notions provoked a critical storm at the first performance, given in Paris in 1905 by the redoubtable Ricard de Vines.

Today's available recordings come in all shapes and sizes, though there is much evidence that the possession of a French passport is no guarantee of authenticity. Mettulous to the point of neurosis, Ravel would surely have been angered by pianists who flout even his most rudimentary instructions: who substitute one dynamic for another (generally, forte for piano), whose rhythmic freedom verges on licence, and who liberally spray the score with inaccuracies.

There are, however, some notable exceptions. Vlad Perlemer's Nimbus disc is of special interest, though his innate keyboard elegance is severely strained by the virtuoso demands of *Alborada del Gracioso*. Marcelle Meyer (EMI), another pianist central to the French tradition, is more vivacious though scarcely more precise, while Pascal Rogé on Decca offers a most stylish reticence — one which should not be mistaken for indifference.

Sumpuously presented and recorded, this is a performance to treasure.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPORST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday (Radio 3, 9am): Shostakovich's Symphony No 5

THEATRE: Social revolutionaries at the NT; spineless Jekyll in Edinburgh

Diggers dug



Tim Winton (and Tim Crouch behind) break new ground

making her own imaginative contributions, often drawing on suggestions made by actors at rehearsal.

One such casual remark became the exchange between two women who break into a great house and enter with a

piece of mirror. The older woman describes the much greater looking-glasses they left behind: "They must know what they look like all the time." In a line like this an entire period bounds into life.

So why does the play as a

whole leave me unsatisfied? The cast of six is determined and convincing in roles that represent most classes between Cromwell and the paviors: Mark Wing-Davey's austere direction resourcefully uses Madeline Herbert's set of plain tables and metal screens, and his closed-circuit television camera throws faint images of the actors upon the rear wall. This is presumably to make us feel that the spirit of the Diggers lives on today. Republicanism is a potent issue for the first time since the defeat of Charles I and millenarian fantasies preoccupy simpler minds. Surely the past in Churchill's play is our present and future?

But too much has changed. The religious issues shown here have now been sidelined. The dismal fate of the revolutionaries can be touching but their personalities seem remote. Spare and precise, gritty and wrathful, the production is expert but the content dry.

JEREMY KINGSTON

A timid Hyding to nothing much

WHEN David Edgar's take on Stevenson's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was revived in Birmingham last year, it transcended not only its original sources, but its own first outing some five years previously. Then, good and evil had seemingly been separated at birth, dividing the role between two actors, while the revised version put the divided self back squarely in the same body, soul, and psyche. By all accounts it was a triumph, which makes Kenny Ireland's new production at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh doubly disappointing.

This is not to say there is nothing on offer. Edgar's post-Freud, post-R. D. Laing approach broadens things out,

father, he also has a one-eyed sister to rattle a closet-load of skeletons. Moreover, the poor fellow has a nubile runaway maid to contend with, his alter ego having put her "in the family way".

As his hellfire bachelor club, meanwhile, the idea is most definitely the thing — abstract rhetoric devoid of anything remotely like feeling or naked emotion. Edgar himself is a victim of this macho disease, theorising himself into a corner with a dialectic perfection delivered so coldly and with all its Victorian trappings that it comes across as little more than slack melodrama devoid of imagination.

Because, despite Edgar's invented characters — Jekyll's sister being a particularly hammy conceit — it is just too literary for its own good. While there are clearly chunks lifted from the book, even the inverted lines sound as though they were too. Full marks to Edgar for slipping his

words so seamlessly into Stevenson's text, but it frankly makes for a pretty boring night once the novelty has worn off.

The play is hidebound, too, by a production so cloyingly old-fashioned that it requires a furniture removal service between every awkwardly constructed scene. Even a hint of impressionistic shadow play to vary pace and pitch would have saved things.

The play could have addressed the superstitious reaction to the concept of evil in the wake of violent tragedy, but is only skirted around here, and it is that sense of danger that is lacking. This is a production marred by its own similitude, reluctant to tackle either this or the aged-old desire to transcend to otherness. At least Jekyll had the nerve to go one step beyond.

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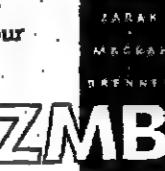
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LAW

Should judges be told what sentences to pass? Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, reports



Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, left, and Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, former Home Secretaries, questioning the sentencing changes

A voice for the public

The Home Secretary's proposals in the Crime (Sentences) Bill to curtail severely the sentencing powers of the judges in cases of serious offences have predictably come under attack from a united front of the higher judiciary. Yesterday the proposals had their third reading in the Commons. But the attack is likely to be renewed in the Lords later this month by Lord Bingham of Cornhill—if only because the proposals represent an intrusion into the traditional role of the criminal courts in sentencing offenders.

More significantly, they have been seriously questioned by two former Home Secretaries, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, as being likely to fill the overcrowded prisons, clog up the courts and cause individual injustice.

If the statutory imposition of minimum and mandatory life sentences for certain crimes is criminologically unsound in foundation and will be unworkable in practice, the new Bill does reflect a public perception (not warranted by factual evidence of courts' sentencing) of inadequate punishment of persistent and dangerous offenders. So is there any way in which genuine public anxiety about inadequate sentencing can be allayed, while retaining the need for all sentencing to be the exclusive province of the judiciary?

Some recognition of the occasional failures of trial judges to pass adequate or appropriate sentences was made in the

Criminal Justice Act 1988. Unjustly lenient sentences, passed by the Crown Court for indictable-only offences, can be challenged by the Attorney-General deciding to refer cases to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), which in turn may increase the sentence. The reform has worked well enough. But the

time seems ripe for enlarging the right of appeal beyond just those cases of undue leniency.

But if it is sensible and unobjectionable for the Director of Public Prosecutions to challenge selectively any inadequate or inappropriate (as distinct from unduly lenient) sentence, would it not be wise to go further? On the debate of the measure introduced in 1988, Lord Lane, then Lord Chief Justice, said in the House that "the more the prosecution can play a part in the sentencing process, the less likely it is that the need will arise for the Crown to appeal

against an over-lenient sentence". If I omit a qualifying phrase, to which I will allude later, Has not the time come for perfecting that idea by formally making the Crown a party to the court procedure, post-conviction?

Traditionally, prosecuting counsel ceases to be a party once the verdict of guilty is recorded.

The Bar Code of Conduct states that "prosecuting counsel should not attempt by advocacy to influence the court with regard to sentence". Even if invited by the trial judge to assist, the practice is to decline, beyond telling the court what powers it has in the case and any relevant Court of Appeal guidelines.

If the mitigation by defence counsel contains unjust criticism of the victim, prosecuting counsel should tell the court it is incorrect. But generally not otherwise. The rationale of such abstention from the sentencing process is that the

prosecution must not in any way seek to be involved, because that, it is claimed, would breach the independence of the judiciary: there should be no semblance of penalty-fixing, or subservience on the part of the judges to the Executive on the policy or practice in sentencing. Lord Lane's qualification for advocating prosecution involvement in the sentencing process was, "without, it hardly needs saying, demanding 'X' years as the minimum". Is it unthinkable, now that we have, since 1985, a national prosecution service, under the direction of the DPP, that prosecuting counsel should formally indicate what the Crown thinks is the appropriate penalty, so the judge can assess the right sentence and avoid, so far as possible, either unmerited appeals by the offender or references by the Attorney-General of cases of undue leniency?

The innate sense of fair play that marks the present system in this country of prosecution withdrawal from the sentencing process is in stark contrast to most legal systems in the rest of Europe. But the conti-

But only, it seems, when life is at stake.

An assistant solicitor was asked to help out in a firm's Moscow office on a transaction. When his work was finished, the head of the Moscow office mentioned to the head of the assistant's department that it had been useful that the lawyer spoke fluent Russian. This fact was not on the assistant's CV.

Asked why, the assistant confessed: "There are several of us here who haven't admitted speaking Russian. We don't want to risk being posted there; it's far too dangerous."

Pro bono

TONY WILLIS, a partner in Clifford Chance, is to chair the first Solicitors Pro Bono Group, which has been set up to encourage solicitors and their firms in ventures where they offer legal advice free of charge. The idea comes from Andrew Phillips, founder of the Citizenship Foundation.

Mr Willis said: "Our intention is to turn this initiative into an enduring framework for a coherent programme of pro bono work by solicitors." Mr Willis is on 0171-600 1000.

SCRIVENOR

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Name fame

WHAT A PITY the newly merged Cameron McKenna has dropped the "Markby" in Cameron Markby Hewitt. Mr Markby was immortalised by an insult in *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, after quarrelling with Oscar Wilde, left.

Lady Bracknell, told that Gwendolen's solicitors are "Messrs Markby, Markby & Markby", sniffily comments: "A firm of the highest in their profession. Indeed, I am told that one of the Mr Markbys is occasionally seen at dinner."

chief probation officers and members of their committees. By all accounts, the measur described by one guest as "businesslike rather than social occasions", have worked a treat. The service was delighted to have a chance to lobby Mr Howard over the Government's law and order measures. But one cynic re-

marked: "The chief probation officers clearly enjoy the dinners, but is there any evidence that he takes on board what they tell him?"

The evidence, so far, is no.

Dangerous talk EVEN in the big City law firms, ambition has its limits.

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Changing culture

FRESH FROM his groundbreaking meeting with the Association of Chief Probation Officers, Lord Bingham of Cornhill is to achieve another first. In June he will become the first Lord Chief Justice to give the Prison Reform Trust's annual lecture.

His decision indicates that Lord Bingham intends to continue the trend initiated by his predecessor, of engaging in public debate on criminal justice matters — watch for the Lords debate on the Crime (Sentences) Bill on January 27.

Stephen Shaw, the chairman of the trust, says: "His decision to accept the invitation shows the cultural change that has taken place. Until Lord Taylor became Lord Chief Justice, it would have been unimaginable for a man in that position to give our annual lecture."

Lobbying Howard

MICHAEL HOWARD has surprised and delighted the Probation Service by dining privately with individual

OUTS

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Queen's Counsel

HOW LEGAL REFORM WORKS:

"THE SYSTEM IS AWFUL IT NEEDS CHANGING."

"AT LEAST SOME INJUSTICES SHOULD BE REMEDIED."

"WE MUST RETAIN THE GOOD ELEMENTS WHILE REFORMING THE BAD."

"WHEN ABLY ADMINISTERED THE SYSTEM WORKS WELL."

"ENGLISH JUSTICE IS THE FINEST IN THE WORLD."

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When counsel should come clean

Counsel have a duty to advance the interests of their clients. But sometimes this must give way to an overriding duty not to mislead the court. The judgments of the Court of Appeal in *Vernon v Bosley* (*Times Law Report*, December 19, 1996) illustrate the fundamental importance of this principle, and the difficulty in its application.

The defendant was employed by the plaintiff and his wife as nanny for their two daughters. In August 1982, the nanny negligently drove a car containing the children into a river in South Wales. The plaintiff sued the defendant (in reality, her insurance company) for damages for the psychiatric injuries he sustained by witnessing unsuccessful rescue attempts.

In January 1995, Mr Justice Sedley awarded the plaintiff a substantial sum of damages based on the evidence he had heard from a consultant psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist about the plaintiff's mental state and the prognosis for the future.

Unknown to Mr Justice Sedley, those experts had also given evidence for the plaintiff in separate family law proceedings in the county court between the plaintiff and his wife at the end of 1994. In that forum, the same experts had stated, in support of their client, that the plaintiff's psychiatric health had greatly improved and that he had substantially recovered from the traumatic incident.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Thorpe held that the plaintiff had a duty to disclose the further evidence to the defendant. His counsel had seriously misled both Mr Justice Sedley and the Court of Appeal (which, at an earlier hearing, had decided an appeal about the amount of compensation without being told about the further evidence). The Court of Appeal reduced the plaintiff's compensation. Lord Justice Evans dissented.

The Code of Conduct for the Bar states that a practising barrister "must assist the court in the administration of justice and must not deceive or knowingly or recklessly mislead the court". The difficulty arises because the court have held that barristers must not actively mislead the court; they may stand passively by and watch the court being misled by reason of its ignorance of the true facts.

An example of actively misleading the court can be found in a 1961 Court of Appeal judgment. The court allowed an appeal after a civil trial for assault because the defendant's barrister had not told the court, or the plaintiff, that his client, a police officer, had been demoted from Chief Inspector for

deception of a court. Everyone in court had wrongly referred to the defendant as "Chief Inspector".

Vernon v Bosley is a very welcome restatement of the obligations of counsel. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith explained that "where the case has been conducted on the basis of certain material facts which are an essential part of the party's case", that party's lawyers have a duty to correct the court's understanding when, before judgment, the facts are discovered by them to be significantly different.

Lord Justice Thorpe pointed out that the balance between the advocate's duties to a client and to the court "must reflect evolutionary change within the civil justice system". Reforms in civil justice require "strengthening the duty in the court". He rightly referred to the value of an "instinctive and intuitive judgment" in this context. "The course that feels wrong," he said, "is unlikely to be the safe course to follow."

Difficult cases can and do arise as to the extent of a lawyer's duty to correct a misleading impression. But, as the majority of the Court of Appeal concluded, *Vernon v Bosley* was well over the line. Counsel had made "a serious error of judgment" in failing to advise their client of the need for disclosure.

An ethical legal system cannot permit lawyers to present a positive case and then conceal inconsistent statements by their own expert witnesses. Nor is the principle affected by the fact that counsel became aware of the county court statements after Mr Justice Sedley had heard evidence, but before he gave judgment.

The judges in the majority disagreed about the steps which counsel should take. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith considered that counsel should advise the client to make disclosure if the client refused, counsel should withdraw from the case. Lord Justice Thorpe more persuasively contended that if the client declined to reveal the new facts, counsel should make disclosure to the opposing counsel. Otherwise, an injustice may well occur.

Though Lord Justice Evans dissented, he was right to suggest that *Vernon v Bosley* deserved a place in the history books or in some legal museum" as an example of excessive costs and delays.

The case demonstrates two other defects that can afflict civil justice in England and Wales: partisan expert witnesses, and the failure of some lawyers to recognise that they have duties other than promoting the interests of their clients.

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Robin Fitzsimons reports on the options open to the Hong Kong electorate if it is not to be represented by Yes Men of the People's Republic

This afternoon Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, will be questioned by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. It will be a grave occasion. Four hundred of the People's Republic's supporters to become Hong Kong's "provisional legislature", the body to replace the elected Legislative Council (LegCo). China's indifference to the promises in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration is clear.

That declaration guarantees Hong Kong a "high degree of autonomy" — of speech, of the press... "which its citizens will enjoy. It underpins these promises with one crucial imperative: — that the "legislature shall be constituted by elections".

Many eminent are the authorities who say that the appointment of a "provisional legislature" violates the declaration. Baroness Thatcher, the US Senate, the UN Human Rights Committee and the International Commission of Jurists have all said as much. What can be done about the violation?

If you believe Sir Percy Cradock, who negotiated the declaration, the answer is

Will the voice of the voters be heard?



Hong Kong has been "guaranteed" a high degree of autonomy

"nothing but spit against the wind". John Major promised to "mobilise the international community and pursue every legal and other avenue available to us". Mr Patten told LegCo: "Take up the matter, not least in the United Nations."

Now Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has asked China to have the dispute over the legislature heard by the World Court; the International Court of Justice. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, was dismissive, and called Britain a coward for suggesting it. It would be useless, he said, for Britain to play any more international cards.

Never mind that China has implicitly accepted the court's competence in territorial, administrative and human rights disputes, or that there has been a Chinese judge on the World Court since 1985.

The Joint Declaration is a treaty lodged with the UN — whose very Charter tells of the purpose to promote respect for international obligations and treaties. But China does not accept the

court's contentious jurisdiction (nor does America). Curiously, the declaration specifies no mechanism of dispute resolution. A protocol could still, however, be added.

What if China continues to stonewall? The court might then act in its advisory jurisdiction. UN organs and agencies such as the General Assembly (or its interim committee) — can refer legal

questions for the court's opinion. Legal attempts by interested parties to stop such a hearing have almost always failed. China might not have a Security Council veto in a dispute referral.

Such advisory opinions are not binding in the way that contentious decisions are, but they have equivalent authority and do define international law. Judge Nagendra Singh, a former World Court

President, said in 1988 that a "state which chooses to contravene what has been defined as a rule of law in an advisory opinion will find it difficult to claim that is not in breach of international law" — a powerful incentive for China to comply.

Even Sir Percy has said that since China has opted for the "legal rather than military solution" for Hong Kong, it would stick to the legal course.

Also Mr Qian's fury about internationalisation suggests a real Chinese vulnerability. Lord Skidelsky, the eminent economic historian, argues that China cannot ignore world concerns about Hong Kong's legislature while covering a seat at every top table in trade and security.

The international lawyers on the UN Human Rights Committee, meeting recently in Geneva, demanded that China be held to account. China's status as a permanent member of the Security Council, they said, made its plans to violate UN and Treaty obligations by

lobbying the UN can pay off. The World Court recently looked at two cases on the legality of nuclear weapons after lawyers and doctors lobbied the General Assembly and the World Health Organisation to seek an advisory opinion. But it needs Britain to spearhead the action. Or be party to Hong Kong's betrayal.

Divorce with a few bits missing Mediation will soon be on offer

A couple's experience of divorce may soon be influenced by the quality of the mediation service in the area where they live. Mediation will play a central role in the divorce process. Couples will decide whether to choose one mediator per pair, rather than a lawyer each, to guide them to their separate destinies.

This new approach is part of last year's Family Law Act, which did not have an easy birth. The Law Society withdrew its support for the Bill, and MPs' concessions led them to force the Government to make concessions. Yet the relevant provisions will not be activated for at least two years.

Legislation can now relax duty done. But other bodies have to ensure that the proposals will work in practice. Pilot projects in local areas will help to achieve this. One such body is the Legal Aid Board, and one such project deals with family mediation.

The Bill received the Royal Assent in July and by October the board had produced its draft consultation paper on proposals for a Family Mediation Pilot Project. The board, in a short time, appears to have made the best of a brouhaha which Parliament took rather longer to concoct.

The project will start in the next few weeks and continue beyond the millennium. Its primary objectives are to determine how best to subcontract quality-assured and publicly funded mediation, while assessing its relative cost/benefits — both to the taxpayer and to the couples involved — as against present legal aid arrangements.

Market forces are expected to add to the 100 or so mediation services now operating in England and Wales, and to extend their remit beyond child issues to finance and property matters.

All involved must meet the challenge of pioneering a radically different approach to divorce while the supporting parts of the 1996 Act are not in force. There will not, for example, be an opportunity to attend the vital divorce information session at which potential divorcees will — one day — have mediation explained to them.

Other reforms that may remain unimplemented during the pilot period include those relating to financial relief orders, which do not, at present, have to be resolved in advance of the divorce order. Similarly, the 18-month minimum period penalties in for parental divorce will not apply.

A final difficulty will be the pensions issue: not only will the relevant part of the Act not be in force but also its inadequacies are so manifest that further statutory change is to be enacted. These matters will bring into sharp relief the need for legal training of the new mediators. As for the geographical areas to be used for the pilot project, the Legal Aid Board is still open to "expressions of interest". Many will see it as golden opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

CHRIS BARTON AND MARY HIBBS
The authors teach family law at Nottingham University.

Is there equality in the profession? Frances Gibb previews the 1997 Woman Lawyer Conference sponsored by The Times

Fighting your way to the top: still a struggle

Women lawyers are making it. Half of the profession's new entrants are women; and women now make up 31 per cent of all practising solicitors — 21,000, according to new Law Society statistics. Their arrival has been swift: since 1986, the solicitors' profession has grown by 42 per cent and the number of practising women solicitors rose by 188 per cent. At the Bar, they make up almost half of each year's new entrants.

More women are taking leading roles in the profession. Heather Hallen, QC, this year's Bar vice-chairman, is likely to be the first woman to lead the Bar in 1998.

So should women lawyers be celebrating? The answer is mixed. Margaret McCabe, barrister and organiser of this year's Woman Lawyer Conference, agrees that women are triumphant. But their success is despite the difficulties, not because they do not exist.

Problems, she says, persist. Chief of these are pay levels for men and women. It is a myth, she contends, that women lawyers receive the same as men.

Ms McCabe says: "While discrimination may manifest itself in a number of ways — sexual harassment and stereotyping women into certain types of work — the key is securing equal remuneration."

Other highlights include two open forum question-and-answer sessions. Among the speakers are Ms Cooper Ramo, Helena Kennedy, QC, Laura Cox, QC, Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities Commission chairwoman,

and Judith Mayhew, Wilde Sapte's director of training.

In a departure from the conference's two previous highly successful predecessors, there will be five simultaneous workshops. Ms McCabe says: "The emphasis is on practical help, such as looking at the key stages of a woman's career. Women may take three to six months off at a critical period, and if those absences are not looked at in a constructive way, they can easily fall behind in career terms and never get back."

Innovative working patterns, recruitment policies, maternity and paternity leave are among the topics. Cherie Booth, QC, will chair a session on "mentoring", the idea of women being helped by a more senior member of the profession, and on career breaks, refresher training and selection processes. Peter Goldsmith, QC, a past Bar Council Chairman, will chair a session on strategies when things go wrong. Jane Willets, partner with Edge & Ellison, on how women — without the golf club or other male haunts — can promote themselves and their businesses; and Alex Le Clezio, director of training at Watson, Farley & Williams, will chair a session on juggling careers and child-rearing.

Many women have reached the top of the profession, say the conference organisers. The task now is to open a smooth path for the rest.



Legal successes: Helena Kennedy, QC, left, and Lesley MacDonagh, first managing partner of a big City law firm



Achievement in the Law Awards



Question time: left, Cherie Booth, QC, and Kamlesh Bahl

dy, QC, Dame Mary Arden, Anne Rafferty, QC, and Laura Carstensen (equity partner at Slaughter & May). The women may be barristers, solicitors, judges, academics, magistrates, legal executives, barristers' clerks or administrators.

For the first, names being bandied about include Helena Kenne-

towards helping others, which is important. But the Queen Bee syndrome, by which women at the top block others, is a recurring problem. So we felt we wanted to recognise those women who had made a valuable contribution."

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Victims' treatment means court is no trial

Roger Dobson on pioneering therapy that helps abused children while ensuring fairness for the accused



Children who have been sexually abused suffer many psychological and physical problems. Guilt, low self-esteem, fear, mistrust and confusion, as well as many physical symptoms, including self-harm, are among the traumatic consequences.

Tackled early, with skilled therapy, many problems can be brought under control. But many traumatised children and young people are being denied access to the help they need until the end of legal proceedings. This is because of fears that therapy will prompt claims that their evidence has been contaminated.

As a result, children may have to wait up to 18 months for skilled counselling to help them to cope. This delay can cause irreparable damage. Alternatively, some pro-

cessions are dropped because the child is too traumatised to give evidence.

Allan Levy, QC, who chaired the Staffordshire pindown inquiry and is one of Britain's leading child care practitioners, believes it is time for national guidelines on how children should be treated. "In the criminal process," he says, "the child's welfare is an afterthought."

The Crown Prosecution Service, social workers and police in Cleveland are involved in a project managed by Barnardo's which does permit early intervention by a special team of therapists but governed by a tightly controlled proto-

col. In the past 18 months, eight cases were dealt with and in three, defence lawyers asked for the full log of therapy sessions, but in no case was the trial outcome affected by the therapy.

To avoid any challenge to the child's evidence, the strict protocol of the project stipulates that the young person will not take part in group therapy sessions, and will only ever be counselled one-to-one.

There is immediate and accurate recording of the sessions and a pro forma completed after each session showing the name of the therapist and the length of the session, usually one hour. The form also

confirms that the child has not been a member of a group and is signed by the therapist. The completed form is attached to the CPS case file.

During the sessions there is no direct questioning of the child about the alleged abusive experience involved in the forthcoming court case. Should a child talk about the abuse, the therapists are instructed to deal with it in an unspecific way. Tim Palmer, the project leader, says: "The police are informed prior to our taking a referral and the CPS is consulted to see whether it has finalised its work and whether there are objections. Usually, we become involved when the case is waiting

for trial. That can be a long time." Detailed and dated files are kept for each session but are confidential. She adds: "Our policy on the files we have is to defend them. If any files are requested, we apply for non-disclosure under public interest immunity. We have been asked for the papers on three occasions and the judge at each hearing allowed the application, selecting the papers he thought relevant. If you don't have a proper protocol, criminal proceedings can be mucked up and cases can be lost."

• An eight-minute video guide for child witnesses, made by the Cleveland project, is being launched by Barnardo's today. The video, plus support material, is aimed at helping children and young people who are likely to be witnesses in court and to be giving their evidence via a video link.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Philippa Teaffe on 0171 971 8826 or write to her at MSI Plc, 1 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GE. Email: Philippa.Delargy@MSI-UK.com.

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مكتبة من الأصل

RUGBY-UNION

Wales selectors keep faith with Thomas at No 10

By DAVID HANNS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Wales selectors have picked a back division full of possibilities for their opening match of the five nations' championship, against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday. In front of them, however, is a pack whose value remains undetermined on a ground where they have not won since 1985.

There are two changes from the XV that beat the United States 34-14 last Saturday, and there would not have been any if suspension had not removed Jonathan Humphreys, the captain and hooker, and illness Neil Jenkins, the full back. Both return, at the expense, respectively, of Glyn Jenkins and Justin Thomas, which suggests consistency on the part of the selectors even while doubts remain about the back five forwards and Arwel Thomas at stand-off half.

Humphreys, a sadder and wiser man after his dismissal playing for Cardiff against Brive earlier this month, reclaims the captaincy from Scott Gibbs. "I have learnt a great deal from Brive, although it was a harsh lesson."

Ashton keeps it simple

BRIAN ASHTON began plotting a five nations' championship upset when he took his first training session as the Ireland coaching adviser yesterday. Ashton, the former Bath coach who was called in by the Irish after the resignation of Murray Kidd last week, was not involved in the selection of the team, but is excited by the prospect of being in charge for the match against France at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

"It is a major challenge for me, but I haven't been excited as much by anything for a long time," Ashton said. "My aim will be to develop a

simple game and to imbue some traditional passion into Ireland's game. There are some outstanding players in this squad, and I'll be aiming to help them all to play the same way."

Ireland are always dangerous when they are underdog. The match against Ireland is a big one and I have a feeling how we will be approaching it, but naturally I will not go into that now." Garry Ralphs, the prop, who was among the replacement, has been ruled out of the match with a knee injury. The vacancy will be filled later this week.

It is a major challenge for me, but I haven't been excited as much by anything for a long time," Ashton said. "My aim will be to develop a

restoration of Gwyn Jones on the open-side flank.

"We did consider Gwyn in the starting line-up," Kevin Bowring, the coach, said, "and certainly we don't think he needs an A game. A year ago Jones was the oil which would make the Welsh wheels run smoothly, but a half-season spent recovering from a shoulder operation has worked against him, while Charvis — the bigger man — has settled well into his international role.

Craig Quinnell presented a powerful case in a short time as a replacement for Mark Nowley on Saturday, but the latter retains his place at lock, even though he was used very little at the lineout at the weekend. "Craig is developing all the time and offers us more mobility, but he needs to work on his lineout game," Bowring said.

Arwel Thomas will remember the game against Scotland last year for the conversion attempt to draw level that drifted wide in the dying moments. He has yet to learn consistency, but neither has he received a prolonged chance to do so. "Arwel is a durable little fellow who is very difficult to handle at times," Bowring said. "He always gets the best out of the back line and creates chances out wide."

The internationals this weekend, which do not involve England, have already accounted for Wasps' game with London Irish and Newcastle's with Richmond in the Courage Clubs' Championship. However, both the first division games on Sunday are expected to proceed: Saracens and Harlequins, who meet at Ealing, lose three players each and Northampton, who already play Bath without Jonathan Bell and Allan Clarke, expect to lose two more when Scotland name their team today.

Several memories of 17 years ago explain the contrasts of South Africa then. One is of falling into conversation with a man, whom it is necessary to identify as white, in our hotel in Cape Town. He said that "blacks" are less intelligent than whites. They have come down from the trees". It was as

much as I could do to stop myself from hitting him. Yet in this same country I met Alan Paton, the author, visited townships where the spirit of the people was as uplifting as the conditions they lived in were awful, and experienced the stillness of a night in a game park.

I was not alone in harbouring ambivalent feelings. Several players told me during the tour that they had had no idea

before they left home of what it was really like in South Africa. One said that, if he had known, he would not have gone.

It was not, then, an ordinary Lions party or an ordinary Lions tour that arrived in Potchefstroom, nearly 5,000 feet above sea level, to the southwest of Johannesburg, for the game against a South African invitation XV. Derek Quinnell, the father of Sioux and Craig, captained the team, and for long periods of the game it looked as though the Lions would be beaten.

Four times they trailed and only ten minutes remained when Kahlis, the invitation XV's hooker, threw the ball in at a lineout. He was won at the back by John O'Driscoll, who palmed the ball down to Colin Patterson, the scrum half, who eagerly spun it away. David Richards, the stand-off,

O'Driscoll for a second time. Gareth Williams, the other flanker, Quinell, Clive Woodward, in the centre, Siemen, the left wing, and Bruce Hay, the full back, all moved the ball around.

At one point Siemen pounced on a loose ball as a man pounces on his hat on a windy day. Williams was in the move again and again, so was Richards, and so was Jim Renwick, who could have ended it had he kicked for touch and nobody would have complained. The imp of mischief, though, was on his forehead and, jinking out of defence, he set the move going once more. So it went on. Alan Phillips, the hooker, passed to Elgan Rees and, when a third ruck formed, Patterson dived off again.

In the stand we were on the edge of our seats as Renwick and Patterson were involved once more. Then Hay barged through two tackles and Siemen who, seeing his team-mate nearing the touchline, cut in field to receive Hay's pass. His slashing diagonal run caught the one remaining South African player wrong-footed and Siemen was able to touch down for a try.

Thirty-one pairs of hands had moved the ball around so that the 32nd pair could score. The try had taken 1 minute and 36 seconds and I rate it as better than the celebrated try scored by the Barbarians against the All Blacks at Cardiff in 1973 because it came after 72 minutes highly competitive play at altitude.

For me, the try represented not only a moment of near perfection in rugby but also a demonstration of moral superiority in an Afrikaner-dominated town over racist South Africa as a whole. I hated moments of this tour, loved others. This, though, was a moment that I would treasure for the rest of my life.

TOMORROW

Christopher Irvine recalls a code-breaker's finest moment at Wembley

John Hopkins recalls the Lions reaching perfection in 1980

Best moment in the worst of times



Having been involved in the move early on, Siemen also applied the finishing touch

N. R. Jenkins (Pontypool), I C Evans (Llanelli), A. G. Bowring (Cardiff), J. S. Williams (Scarborough), S. Thomas (Gordano); A. C. Thomas (Sheffield), R. Hesley (Cardiff), L. L. Lovell (London), J. M. H. Williams (Neath), G. O. Llewellyn (Hawick), M. Rowley (Pontypool), C. G. Evans (Cardiff, captain), D. Yorke (Cardiff), R. A. Williams (Cardiff), R. A. Williams (Cardiff), J. C. Gethin (Richmond), R. G. Jenkins (Cardiff), L. M. Morris (Cardiff), G. R. Jenkins (Cardiff).

prideful flanker capped against South Africa last month, has been stilled by the fact that he has not recovered match fitness after breaking a checkbone in training a month ago. Steve Williams remains at No 6, though there must have been a temptation to switch Colin Charvis to permit the

same game and to imbue some traditional passion into Ireland's game. There are some outstanding players in this squad, and I'll be aiming to help them all to play the same way."

Ireland are always dangerous when they are underdog. The match against Ireland is a big one and I have a feeling how we will be approaching it, but naturally I will not go into that now." Garry Ralphs, the prop, who was among the replacement, has been ruled out of the match with a knee injury. The vacancy will be filled later this week.

It is a major challenge for me, but I haven't been excited as much by anything for a long time," Ashton said. "My aim will be to develop a

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THE TIMES/TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

RACING: FAST CONDITIONS RULE OUT CHAMPION HURDLER'S INTENDED RETURN AT HAYDOCK

Collier Bay switches to Leopardstown

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE cold snap in Britain may have refuted but Leopardstown is the destination for Collier Bay, the reigning champion hurdler, who will attempt a repeat victory in the Irish equivalent on Sunday.

Circumstances have almost certainly conspired against Collier Bay, lining up at Haydock 24 hours earlier. The Champion Hurdle Trial remains the preferred target of Jim Old, who trains the horse. But Old yesterday accepted that the combination of fast



Nap: SON OF ANSHAN
(1.30 Carlisle)
Next best: Stormy Coral
(2.00 Carlisle)

ground and a forecast dry week had effectively removed the option.

"It looks as though we will be forced into going to Ireland, which we don't want to do," the trainer said. "It can be a nightmare trip at this time of the year, as it was when we took him to Leopardstown 12 months ago. There's a further complication this time in that the horse has not run since March. He is a particularly big, gross horse, seriously difficult to train, but we are not panicking. Hopefully, we won't be set back by the weather between now and Sunday."

Last year, Collier Bay went into the AIG (Europcar) Irish Champion Hurdle on the back of a victorious reappearance at Sandown six weeks earlier, although his trainer felt he was not at his best after a difficult journey. The horse, who galloped on grass yester-

day for the first time since Christmas, must exercise throughout the week to reach an acceptable level of fitness.

"If we can do that, he will be as fit as he was first time out last season," Old said, "but not fit as when he won in Ireland. The only reason we would not run is if he is not ready. We don't want to make a fool of him."

Like every trainer with Cheltenham dreams, Old must resolve the dilemma of

having Collier Bay in peak condition for the second week in March. Time is against us, but we can't afford to pass up the chance of running this weekend. There is only one other suitable race for him before Cheltenham and you

requires soft ground. David Nicholson, who trains both horses, will finalise plans after monitoring their work this week.

Better jumping ground at Leopardstown may prompt Nicholson to give Namoodaj, favourite for the Triumph

hurdle with some bookmakers, his jumping debut in Ireland on Sunday. He has also entered Mulligan, a leading novice chaser over two miles, in the Arkle Perpetual Challenge Trophy on the same card. But Castle Sweep, another Irish Champion Hurdle contender, has contracted a minor hock infection. He now waits for the Cleve Hurdle, and a meeting with Large Action, at Cheltenham on Saturday.

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CRICKET: WHITE PRESSES CLAIM FOR ALL-ROUNDER'S ROLE IN TESTS WITH IMPRESSIVE RETURN

Atherton struggles to find firm footing

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN PALMERSTON NORTH

PALMERSTON NORTH (first day of four England XI won toss): England XI, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs behind New Zealand Select XI

WITH the exception of Michael Atherton, the England team could draw immense satisfaction from their day's work as the first-class programme in New Zealand opened against a strong Select XI at Fitzherbert Park.

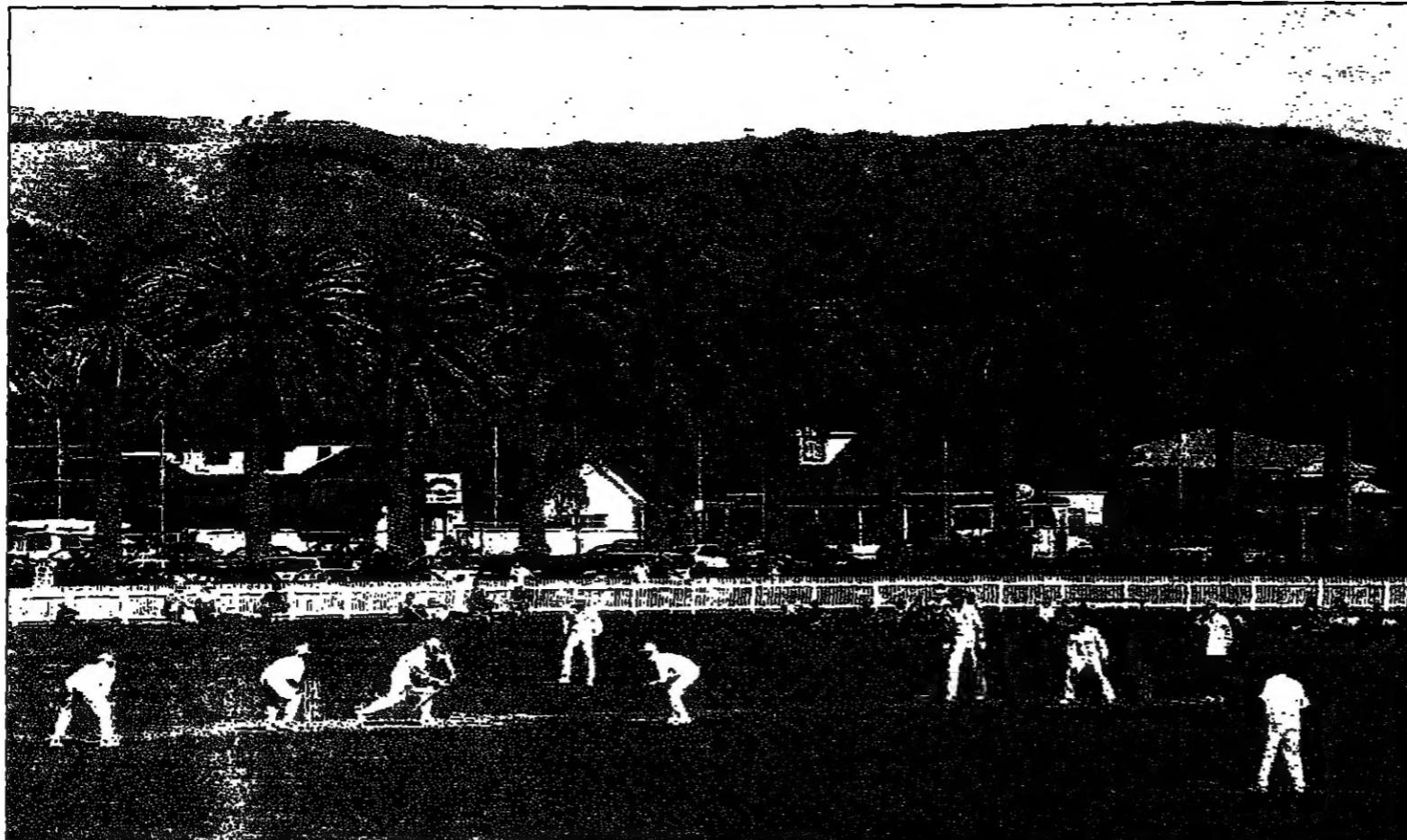
Atherton's miserable run of form continues. He was dismissed in single figures for the seventh time in 14 innings on tour and was fortunate to even get off the mark.

Batting looked a struggle for him as he encountered two of the quickest New Zealand bowlers, who were looking to attract the attention of the selectors before the first Test at Auckland. Danny Morrison has to prove his fitness after a recent groin operation and Robert Kennedy was disappointed to be overlooked for the two Tests on the recent tour to Pakistan.

The opportunities offered by a well-grassed pitch with plenty of bounce and carry were too tempting to ignore. In Morrison's lively first over, Atherton, on nought, failed to get over a ball that lifted just short of gully. He was also twice beaten outside his off stump.

Kennedy does not possess Morrison's raw pace, but moves the ball through the air and off the seam. Although Atherton has been working hard on his footwork, it failed him again when Kennedy, 24, from Dunedin, made the ball nip back off a good length.

In the early overs of the England innings Nick Knight and Alec Stewart were also troubled, but the Select XI had little to offer after the frontline pair. Knight and Stewart have enjoyed consistent success over the past seven weeks and, on a surprisingly fast outfield, they punished every loose ball



The palm trees of Fitzherbert Park provide a stunning backdrop as Stewart plays forward. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

that came their way. There were plenty from which to choose.

In 21 overs they compiled an unheralded partnership of 75 that allowed England to end the first day of four only 32 runs behind the Select XI's 138 all out with seven wickets in hand — a dominant position against a side containing eight players with Test experience.

Knight, however, failed by four runs to complete a half-century. He was out glancing down the leg side when Morrison returned for a second spell. The sight of Andrew Caddick appearing as a nightwatchman with 25 minutes of the day remaining suggests that it will take several more competitive days

PALMERSTON NORTH SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND SELECT XI: First Innings		ENGLAND XI: First Innings	
B A Pocock c Thorpe b Caddick	16	48-1; Silverwood, 12-4-24-2; White 9-4-3	
C J Spearman b White	41	N V Knight c Parore b Morrison	45
(A) Parore c Morrison b Silverwood	41	M A Horne c Silverwood b Cork	22
M J Aitken c Morrison b Cork	10	L B Gossell c Caddick b Cork	10
M J Gossell c Caddick b Cork	10	J J Venables c Morrison b Parore	0
P J Wessman c Stewart b Silverwood	0	A R Caddick c Parore b Morrison	7
M J Haslam run out	0	N Hussain not out	0
D J Morrison c Thorpe b White	4	R J Kennedy not out	0
R J Kennedy not out	7	Total (8 wkt, 1 h.r.) 138	108
Extras (0 4, 0 0)	7	Total (4 wkt, 1 h.r.) 108	108
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-51, 3-58, 4-61,		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-24, 3-108	
BOWLING: Morrison 10-2-20-2, Kennedy 8-2-11, Vaughan 7-2-24-0, Wessman 7-2-10, Haslam 7-1-0		BOWLING: Morrison 10-2-20-2, Kennedy 8-2-11, Vaughan 7-2-24-0, Wessman 7-2-10, Haslam 7-1-0	
Umpires: S D Dunn and D Quigley.		Umpires: S D Dunn and D Quigley.	

before confidence is fully restored to the England camp, but in the present climate, any success has to be savoured.

England's bowling never quite matched Morrison for speed, but showed what may be achieved through persistent accuracy backed with high class fielding.

Dominic Cork swung the new ball without achieving the

success that he deserved and, as the shine began to wear off, an opening stand of 48 between Blair Pocock and Chris Spearman looked ominous. However, Thorpe's safe hands at slip accounted for Pocock off the bowling of Caddick, and Atherton reacted with alacrity at backward point to cling to a fierce cut by Adam Parore.

The most informative England bowling performance was produced by Craig White, who is being given an extended chance to secure the regular all-rounder's place after his successes on the A team tour of Australia.

With Silverwood, Cork and Caddick striking at regular intervals, the Select XI were in danger of failing to reach three figures before an awkward stand was allowed to develop between Justin Vaughan and Mark Haslam, the left-handers.

It was broken, however, when Knight's direct throw from third man ran out Haslam, and White was then recalled to tidy up the tail in emphatic fashion. Thorpe picked up a second smart slip catch and Vaughan was bowled offering no stroke to give White a return of four for 15 from nine overs.

that surprised Mark Greatbatch, who mistimed a back-foot drive to wide gully shortly after lunch.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNDERDOGS BOW TO REALITY AND EXPERIENCE AS GREEN BAY FINALLY RETURN TO SUPER BOWL

Packers revive memories of the Lombardi legend

By OLIVER HOLT

SOME of the romance disappeared with the vanquished, but the majority of it survived with the victors. Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars, the underdogs, fell at the final hurdle before the Super Bowl on Sunday, but Green Bay Packers ensured that American football's showpiece event will be a festival of nostalgia when they bulldozed their way to their first appearance in it for 29 years.

For the first time, the Packers will be able to compete for the trophy named after their late, great coach,

Vince Lombardi, the prize that is awarded to the Super Bowl winners. Their only remaining obstacle is New England Patriots, who ended the Jaguars' upstream dream in the snow of Massachusetts late on Sunday.

The Packers were the first to book their place in New Orleans on January 26. After a faltering start from Brett Favre, their quarterback, who was recently named the most valuable player in the National Football League (NFL) for a second successive season, they stepped up a gear and cruised past opponents who have been in existence for only 18 months, winning 30-13.

"We congratulate Green Bay," Bill Polian, the Panthers' general manager, said. "They beat us every way you can. There's no question they were the better team by a wide margin. If they are the benchmark, we have got a long way to go."

Despite enduring three hours in temperatures that sank well below zero, most of the crowd stayed behind after the game to hear an emotional speech from Reggie White, the Packers' fearsome defensive end. "I hope you're proud of us, Green Bay," White said to the 60,000 supporters, because we're proud of you."

The Packers, though, are likely to

face the strongest challenge from an American Football Conference team since Los Angeles Raiders scored the conference's last victory, over Washington Redskins, in 1984. The Panthers, led by Drew Bledsoe, their richly talented quarterback, and steadied by a rock-solid defence, should at least ensure that the match is not the one-sided affair that it has fallen into in recent years.

The Patriots have appeared in the Super Bowl only once before, when they lost 46-10 to Chicago Bears in 1986, also in New Orleans, but the way that their defence shut down Mark Brunell, the league's leading passer, on Sunday reinforced the belief that they will be a tough challenge for Favre and the Packers.

Brunell had brought the Jaguars close to an equalising touchdown late in the fourth quarter before he was intercepted and New England eased away to win, 20-6. If the Patriots beat the Packers, Bill Parcells, their coach, will become the first in the NFL to take two different teams to the sport's top prize.

"We know we're the underdog," Willie McGinest, of the Patriots, said. "Everybody expects us to lose again, but we are going to go out there and show them what we can do."

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SPORTS QUIZ

Winner claims six of best

MARGARET HARRIS, of Southampton, is the winner of *The Times* 1996 Quiz of the Sporting Year. Miss Harris will receive the first prize of six bottles of Glen Ord 12-year-old single malt whisky. The six runners-up will each receive a copy of *Visions of Tennis*, a celebration of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. The runners-up are Anthony Lowe, of Potters Bar; Mrs J Lewis, of Eastleigh; Andrew Slack, of Chesterfield; Anne Roberts, of Romsey; Ray Grange, of Holmewood, and Angela Murphy, of Pixton.

ANSWERS: 1. Brad O'Dowd; 2. Sri Lanka (Muturandapura); 3. France; 4. Fausto As�ila; 5. Boris Becker; 6. Ron Pickering; 7. Mark Fidler; 8. Steve Redgrave; 9. Steve Redgrave; 10. Steve Redgrave; 11. Steve Redgrave; 12. Luther Burrell and Kenny Jackett; 13. Alberto Tomba; 14. Willi Cartier; 15. (to 1972); 16. Richie Richardson; 17. Pauline Parmentier; 18. David Thompson; 19. Dene Dumaresq and Marc Hodges; 20. Sri Lanka; 21. Asian Valley; 22. Hughes; 23. Wayne; 24. The Refugees; 25. Steve Redgrave; 26. Steve Redgrave; 27. Stuart Pearce; 28. Ronnie O'Sullivan; 29. Terry Venables; 30. Neil Back; 31. Diane Morrissey; 32. Barry McGuigan; 33. Michael Beale; 34. Steve Redgrave; 35. Steve Redgrave; 36. Steve Redgrave; 37. Alan Shearer; 38. Alan Shearer; 39. Steve Redgrave; 40. Michael Beale; 41. Miguel Angel Nadal; 42. Tom Henning (scored by each team); 43. Tom Lehman Two strokes; 44. MCT; 45. Martina Navratilova; 46. Steve Redgrave; 47. Steve Redgrave; 48. Tony McCoy; 49. Ken Sherriff; 50. Fabrizio Ravasi; 51. Keith Johnson; 52. Gold 53. Nick Galbraith; 54. Alan Shear; 55. Chris Boardman; 56. Molotova; 57. Alan Shear; 58. Steve Redgrave; 59. Leopoldskron; 60. Seven; 61. Lawer; 62. Baltimore Orioles; 63. Michael Jordan; 64. Walker; 65. Steve Redgrave; 66. Michael Jordan; 67. Pelicans; 68. Robbie; 69. Hornet in the Phoenix stadium; 70. Tony McCoy; 71. Charlton Athletic; 72. Steve Redgrave; 73. Steve Redgrave; 74. Steve Redgrave; 75. Michael Schumacher; 76. Michael Schumacher; 77. Tony McCoy; 78. Basketball; 79. Jason Leach; 80. Ian Botham; 81. The third Test; 82. Steve Redgrave; 83. Steve Redgrave; 84. Steve Redgrave; 85. Steve Redgrave; 86. Steve Redgrave; 87. Steve Redgrave; 88. Steve Redgrave; 89. Steve Redgrave; 90. Steve Redgrave; 91. Steve Redgrave; 92. Steve Redgrave; 93. Steve Redgrave; 94. Steve Redgrave; 95. Steve Redgrave; 96. Steve Redgrave; 97. Steve Redgrave; 98. Steve Redgrave; 99. Steve Redgrave; 100. Steve Redgrave; 101. Steve Redgrave; 102. 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Steve Redgrave; 291. Steve Redgrave; 29

THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

Can somebody tell me what's going on?

The search for truth is, of course, the basis of most stories. This is the reason why detective series are endlessly produced for telly; also why *The X-Files* can go on for ever; also why, in every episode of *EastEnders*, these days several characters demand in a loud, huffy way "What's going on, Grant?" until the repetition makes you want to scream. Somehow the request for an explanation always comes out the same way, you see. "Grant! What's going on?" or "Grant! Why won't you tell me what's going on?" are thrilling variations on the basic theme, of course, but can't quite satisfy the audience's hunger for fresh sentiments. An exasperated "Grant!", incidentally, is now sufficient to imply "What's going on?" without the words actually needing to be uttered.

Last night's telly featured two major fiction series, both sorting out the supposed what's going-on-

with pleasant ease. One of these series — *McCallum* (TV) — was traditional, and I'll deal with it first because probably a lot more people watched it. *McCallum* stars the beauteous John Hannah as a conscientious Scottish pathologist working in London. Somehow banishing from his mind the unfortunate Amanda Burton problem (she's done the pathologist-hero series already on BBC1), Hannah does his green, plastic pinny and gets delving. For him, truth is something routinely uncovered with each new cadaver delivered to his slab. Refreshingly, *McCallum* has no gimmick, save perhaps for Hannah being cool and Scottish and a heart-throb.

No, the only gimmick in *McCallum* is to disguise a perfectly straightforward and cosy who-dunnit (death of Jewish baker in mysterious circumstances), by dressing it up with fancy city-lights photography and raucous blue music to make it

seem modern and edgy and challenging. A plot that is a nice mug of coffee is presented more like gin from a paper bag. Dangerous, ugly actors are cast in quite workaday roles — Gerard Murphy, as the unremarkable police inspector, has a cloven forehead and one eye bigger than the other. Meanwhile *McCallum's* colleague Paddy — a pathologist literally losing his grip — is played by Richard Moore, the scary man in *Band of Gold* who did undocumented things while Carol paraded in silk stockings. Put that man in rubber gloves and automatically half the audience faints with horror.

Over on Channel 4, at the same time as *McCallum*, we got the newly imported *Dark Skies* — a series which cunningly plait together all the paranoid imaginings of *The X-Files: The Invasion of the Body*

Snatchers, and Oliver Stone's *JFK*. It's quite a simple premise, once you think of it, and it was bound to happen. All generations rewrite history to link together the few events they now account important in their past. It's just unfortunate that in the popular American mind, the towering high point of the 20th century is nowadays the Roswell incident.

So we're off on a truth-is-out-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

there quest with a new spin. Preppy young John Loengard arrives in Washington DC in 1961 and uncovers a conspiracy to cover up an alien invasion! He sees a Roswell alien in a big filing cabinet! An autopsy is performed on a murderous crop-farmer, and he turns out to have a wriggly, screeching "ganglion" living in his brain! The truth is overrated, John," warns the menacing Captain Bach, but of course it isn't. The truth is HUGE. The only niggle is the usual one: if the aliens can zap anybody they want to, why are they so selective and scheming? Why do they waste their precious alien time doodling crop circles on the countryside, infiltrating governments, and mentally torturing a harmless man like Loengard?

Dark Skies ended last night after a slightly annoying two hours; I really should read listings more carefully) with Loengard a fugitive from Washington, armed

with "the thing they fear the most"

— ie, The Truth. He's got a bright blue car with fins, incidentally; also a girlfriend he rescued from the aliens by injecting nail polish remover in the back of her head. And there, if I'm not mistaken, is a sentence you never thought you'd read.

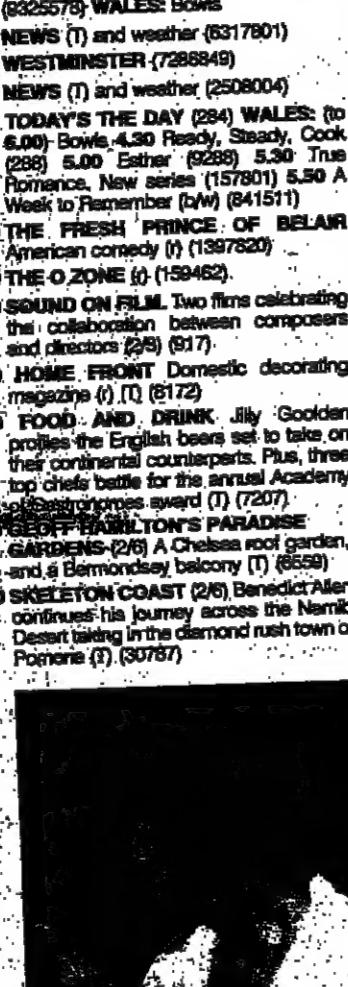
I got fed up with searching for the truth to be honest. By the time *The Net* (BBC2) came on at 11.15, I was exhausted. Which was a shame, because there has rarely been a bigger challenge to the human spatial imagination than the Internet — and rarely been a better attempt to present "digital culture" more level-headedly than *The Net*. In the context of last night's viewing, however, it seemed curiously perverse. *McCallum* and *Dark Skies* stir up paranoia out of nothing, while *The Net* takes the single biggest source of alienation in the

modern world, and (not wanting to worry people) celebrates it. This is not a programme for people who think a modem is a form of transport. But it's as user-friendly as it can possibly be, and its unflappable and intelligent presenter Benjamin Woolley is well-chosen for the job. An expert on virtual worlds, he still appears to live in the real one, unlike Dr Finella Trenzzi, the blonde Italian super-vixen astrophysicist and Net-fanatic featured in last night's show.

Yes, sorry for all the adjectives, but they all apply. Dr Trenzzi wears a sexy lab coat and listens to the music of the spheres on the Internet exclaiming "But a listen-a to what she is singing!" as her bosom heaves. Trust me, she will have a show called *Zeigelt* on Channel 4 within the week — unless, of course, somebody acts fast and injects nail polish remover in the back of her head.

BBC1
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (26559)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (T) (2197)
8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (T) (4876917)
9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (563191)
9.45 KILROY (1036443)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (73207)
11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5339758)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (3488612)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (611682)
12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7927714)
12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (165598)
12.30 GOING FOR A SONG (4871153)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (2730862)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (240404)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (44986714)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (74886511)
2.05 THE FLYING DOCTORS (D) (8820424)
2.45 PUT IT TO THE TEST (399443)
3.10 WEAR IT WELL (3264172)
3.30 PLAYDAYS (3856172) 3.50 Casper Classics (2501191) 3.55 Hubub (1342202) 4.10 Prince of Persia (1659288) 4.35 The Mask (7655056) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5430379) 5.10 The Big (T) (1890085)
3.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (207723)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (511)
6.30 NEWSROOM SOUTH EAST (191)
7.00 HOLIDAY Jill Dando goes on an all-inclusive sailing trip in France; Monty Boos' travels to America; Lesley Sharp tours the Derbyshire Dales; by post; and guest presenter Helen Clark reports from the Hawaiian Island of Maui (T) (1882)
7.30 EASTENDERS The results re-emerge; Arthur and Frank's old love affair come to nothing (T) (375)
8.00 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (265598) Foster remains unconvinced by the best efforts of the staff at Alder Hey (T) (4630)
8.30 THE DETECTIVES First in a series of one-note comedy with Robert Powell and Jasper Carrott (T) (3537)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5817)
9.30 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS Tonight's sketches feature Troy Boy and Wayne and Waynetta; they luck on the lottery (T) (71337)
10.00 CRIMEWATCH UK Tonight's cases include a bank robbery in Dundee, Scotland and a rape in Prestatyn in North Wales (T) (166509)
10.45 THE BIG OMNIBUS Dancing through Darkness A slim portrait of the last ten years of Rudolf Nureyev's life (701086)
11.40 CRIMEWATCH UK UPDATE (T) (672578) WALES 11.40 Indoor Bowls (454065) 12.20pm Crimewatch UK Update (2884467) 12.30 Film: <i>The Good Wife</i> (72252) 2.00 News (T) (284422)
11.50 FILM: <i>The Good Wife</i> (1987) starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown A bored housewife in 1930s Australia has her life turned upside down by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Directed by Ken Cameron (223805)
1.20am WEATHER (563184)

BBC2
7.15am SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (613356) 7.30 Help! It's the Harp Bear Bunch (275273) 7.55 Blue Peter (2476288) 8.20 Johnson and Friends (3008530) 8.35 The Record (3518443) 9.00 Daytime on Two: Standard Grade English (4764559) 9.20 The Business Studies Collection (8877733) 9.45 Watch (3842240) 10.00 Playdays (32269) 10.30 Come Outside (8903016) 10.45 Science Zone (5677191) 11.05 Space Club (5677192) 11.30 Shakespeare: <i>The Animated Tales</i> (2579581) 12.00 Weather (5424242) 12.30pm Working Lunch (28443) 1.00 Teaching Today (28245) 1.30 Showcase (4468458) 1.40 Hotpot House (3134788) 2.00 Johnson and Friends (8942530) 2.10 Everyone's Got One: A new series exploring family life (3252578) WALES: Bowles (3003005) 3.00 NEWS (T) and weather (6317801) 3.05 WESTMINSTER (7285849) 3.35 NEWS (T) and weather (2508004) 4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (204) WALES: (to 6.00) Bowls 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (288) 5.00 Esther (9288) 5.30 True Romance, New series (157801) 5.50 A Week to Remember (B/W) (451517) 6.00 THE FRESH PRINCE OF BELAIR American comedy (T) (1597820) 6.30 GARDENS (261) A Chelsea roof garden, and a Bermondsey balcony (T) (6550) 6.30 SKELETON COAST (26) Benedict Allen continues his journey across the Namib Desert in the diamond rush town of Pomona (T) (30757)
7.10pm THE O-ZONE (T) (159452)
7.30 SOUND ON FILM Two films celebrating the collaboration between composers and directors (281) 9.17
8.00 HOME FRONT Domestic decorating magazine (T) (6172)
8.30 FOOD AND DRINK Jill Godden profiles the English best set to take on their continental counterparts. Plus, three top chefs battle for the annual Academy Award nominees award (T) (2707)
8.30pm THE PARADISE (26) Hamilton Gards, and a Bermondsey balcony (T) (6550)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (511)
9.30 NEWSROOM SOUTH EAST (191)
10.00 HOLIDAY Jill Dando goes on an all-inclusive sailing trip in France; Monty Boos' travels to America; Lesley Sharp tours the Derbyshire Dales; by post; and guest presenter Helen Clark reports from the Hawaiian Island of Maui (T) (1882)
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11.30 THE DETECTIVES First in a series of one-note comedy with Robert Powell and Jasper Carrott (T) (3537)
12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (5817)
12.30pm LEARNING ZONE C.U.: Practically Speaking (32486) 1.00 Earthquakes (39505) 1.30 Magnetic Earth (52399) 2.00 Landmarks (9908) 3.00 Teaching and Learning with IT 5.00 Inside Europe 5.30 Film Education



Penny Burton (10.00pm)

It may be hard to comprehend in these more tolerant times but in the 1950s, and even as late as the supposedly permissive 1960s, being an unmarried mother carried a considerable social stigma. As a result many of the children were handed over for adoption and some mothers were so ashamed of their part that they concealed them from their own husbands and children. The film carries the stories of five women. All gave their babies away, all lived with a feeling of guilt and all have nursed the hope that they would see their children again. Their testimonies are moving, painful and delivered with transparent honesty. Some of the stories have a happy ending but the film also proves that tracking down a child after a long separation is no guarantee that a joyful reunion will follow.

Omnibus: Rudolf Nureyev — Dancing Through Darkness BBC1, 10.15pm (Scotland: Thursday, 11.15pm)

In 1953 Rudolf Nureyev was appointed artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet and set about revitalising a hidebound institution. Six years afterwards he was diagnosed as HIV-positive and the rest of his life was spent fighting to sustain his passion for dance against the ravages of the AIDS virus. When conservative forces in Paris finally ousted him, he toured America in *The King and I* and returned to the Kirov in St Petersburg for the first time since his defection in the 1960s. He returned to Paris to mount one last production, but was far too ill to take part. The most powerful image in Teresa Phillips' film is of Nureyev, distastefully haggard and barely able to speak, taking his leave of the first-night audience. Three months later he was dead.

Peter Waymark

1.00pm THE SIMPSONS LIVE AND UNCUT The story of the American cartoon family (T) (2767605)

1.30pm THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (58285)

1.30pm LEARNING ZONE C.U.: Practically Speaking (32486) 1.00 Earthquakes (39505) 1.30 Magnetic Earth (52399) 2.00 Landmarks (9908) 3.00 Teaching and Learning with IT 5.00 Inside Europe 5.30 Film Education

1.30pm NEWSNIGHT (T) (24505)

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